

# LOUD

*Stories to Make Your Voice Heard*



MOLESTE

# LOUD

*Stories to Make Your Voice Heard*

ANNA CERCIGNANO · ELEONORA ANTONIONI · MAURIZIA RUBINO

FRANCESCA TORRE · LA TRAM · LUCIA BIAGI · VEGA GUERRIERI

CATERINA FERRANTE · LAURA GUGLIELMO · DAVIDE COSTA · ELISA2B

CARMEN GUASCO · MARTA MACOLINO · ALESSIA DE SIO



DARK HORSE BOOKS

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER **MIKE RICHARDSON**

EDITOR **BRETT ISRAEL**

ASSISTANT EDITOR **TARA MCCARRON**

DIGITAL ART TECHNICIAN **JOEY WEAVER**

COLLECTION DESIGNER **HANNAH NOBLE**

ENGLISH WORKING TRANSLATION BY **ANNA BARTON**

**LOUD: STORIES TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD**

Original title: *Fai rumore. Nove storie per osare* by Various Authors. © 2022, 2024 Editrice Il Castoro Srl. Viale Andrea Doria 7, 20124 Milano. [www.editriceilcastoro.it](http://www.editriceilcastoro.it). [info@editriceilcastoro.it](mailto:info@editriceilcastoro.it). This graphic novel was created in collaboration with Collettivo MOLESTE. Cover design by Grazia La Padula. Foreword by Jennifer Guerra in agreement with Oblique Studio, Roma. Project coordination: Francesca Torre, La Tram (Collettivo MOLESTE); Chiara Arienti, Glusy Scarfone (Il Castoro). The script by Davide Costa for his story was published in agreement with Piergiorgio Nicolazzini Literary Agency (PNLA). All rights reserved. Dark Horse Books® and the Dark Horse logo are registered trademarks of Dark Horse Comics LLC, registered in various categories and countries. All rights reserved. Dark Horse is part of Embracer Group. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of Dark Horse Comics LLC. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

COMIC SHOP LOCATOR SERVICE: COMICSHOPLOCATOR.COM

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Cercignano, Anna, author, artist. | Antonioni, Eleonora, author, artist. | Rubino, Maurizia, 1977– author, artist. | Barton, Anna, 1985– translator.

Title: Loud : stories to make your voice heard / Anna Cercignano, Eleonora Antonioni, Maurizia Rubino [and others] ; English working translation by Anna Barton.

Other titles: *Fai rumore*. English

Description: First edition. | Milwaukie, OR : Dark Horse Books, 2024.

Identifiers: LCCN 2023052693 (print) | LCCN 2023052694 (ebook) | ISBN 9781506741093 (trade paperback) | ISBN 9781506745152 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Women—Violence against—Comic books, strips, etc. | Feminism—Comic books, strips, etc. | LCGFT: Social issue comics. | Graphic novels.

Classification: LCC PN6766 .F3513 2024 (print) | LCC PN6766 (ebook) | DDC 741.5/945—dc23/eng/20231121

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2023052693>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2023052694>

PUBLISHED BY DARK HORSE BOOKS

A DIVISION OF DARK HORSE COMICS LLC

10956 SE MAIN STREET

MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

FIRST EDITION: JULY 2024

EBOOK ISBN 978-1-50674-515-2

TRADE PAPERBACK ISBN 978-1-50674-109-3

13 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2



PRINTED IN CHINA

NEIL HANKERSON Executive Vice President • TOM WEDDLE Chief Financial Officer • DALE LAFOUNTAIN Chief Information Officer • TIM WIESCH Vice President of Licensing • VANESSA TODD-HOLMES Vice President of Production and Scheduling • MARK BERNARDI Vice President of Book Trade and Digital Sales • RANDY LAHRMAN Vice President of Product Development and Sales • CARA O'NEIL Vice President of Marketing • DAVE MARSHALL Editor in Chief • DAVEY ESTRADA Editorial Director • CHRIS WARNER Senior Books Editor • CARY GRAZZINI Director of Specialty Projects • LIA RIBACCHI Creative Director • MICHAEL GOMBOS Senior Director of Licensed Publications • KARI YADRO Director of Custom Programs • KARI TORSON Director of International Licensing • CHRISTINA NIECE Director of Scheduling

## **FOREWORD BY JENNIFER GUERRA**

*“No one can do it for you, but you don’t have to do it alone.”*

This gem of a sentence forms the heart of the comic “Two in One” by Francesca Torre and La Tram, which describes how a young woman finds the self-awareness she needs to leave an abusive relationship. It’s a sentence that incorporates two of the central principles that run through *Loud*: self-determination and sisterhood. What you are about to read is a collection of comics created by writers and illustrators from the MOLESTE feminist collective, which was set up with the aim of providing a mutual listening space and to fight against all forms of violence, delegitimization, and discrimination in the world of comics. It is also far more than that, as the stories collected here will tell.

These stories do not simply retell, on paper, episodes of violence —gaslighting, slut shaming, fatphobia, catcalling, and more; more importantly, they express women’s desire to tell our own

stories. Feminist poet Audre Lord famously wrote: “My silences had not protected me. Your silence will not protect you.” That sentence is often cited alone, but the sentence that follows on from it, which is less frequently cited, substantially extends her point: “But for every real word spoken, for every attempt I had ever made to speak those truths for which I am still seeking, I had made contact with other women while we examined the words to fit a world in which we all believed, bridging our differences.”

Silence has been—and often still is—a constant element in female experience. One of the greatest revolutions feminism has brought us is the act of speaking and of making ourselves subjects in charge of our own lives. In our male-dominated cultural and philosophical panorama, the feminist self has well and truly shaken things up and—as Adriana Cavarero points out in *Relating Narratives: Storytelling and Selfhood*—has, for the first time ever, asked women *who are you?* rather than *what are you?* It has asked not about our role but about our identity as women—an identity built in relation to other women and, it is important to add, to marginal identities. In *Loud* the subjects who take back control of their own stories include Ellie, Sabrina, Rose, Laura, Liz, Camilla, and numerous faces without names, which become the faces of all women.

Public discourse around harassment and violence is often framed in the wrong terms. Whenever we move beyond simple numerical statistics, which alone cannot reflect the complexity of real experience, we end up relying on a narrative that reinforces our society’s habitual division of roles: women are narrated as passive objects, as figures who suffer violence with no escape. This victim role is ambivalent and can easily become a trap. So it is

extremely important that we build up a counternarrative that will not only break the silence but also fill it with words that make sense.

Comics, which provide a window into our inner thoughts and build a close rapport with their readers, are likely among the most appropriate media for this purpose. When I read these stories, with their splendid graphics, I had the feeling that they were my own stories. Not so much—or not only—because they describe situations similar to those I have experienced, but because each of us is intimately acquainted with that fear, those struggles, that reliance on other people's perspectives. *“No one can do it for you, but you don’t have to do it alone”*: it takes enormous effort and incredible willpower to escape violence, whether that violence is part of a relationship or is the result of a mindset that is preventing us from believing in our own freedom. But as you will see, once we've taken the first step, we quickly find that we aren't alone; we never will be. Our sisters walk with us, every step of the way.

*Jennifer Guerra*

# CONTENTS

7

## BABY FACE

ANNA CERCIGNANO

27

## SABRINA

ELEONORA ANTONIONI

47

## TEXT ME WHEN YOU GET HOME

MAURIZIA RUBINO

65

## TWO IN ONE

FRANCESCA TORRE, LA TRAM

85

## THE RIGHT THING

LUCIA BIAGI

105

## THE YELLOW HOODIE

VEGA GUERRIERI, CATERINA FERRANTE

123

## CAREFUL

LAURA GUGLIELMO

143

## UNDER PRESSURE

DAVIDE COSTA, ELISA2B

161

## LISTEN TO ME

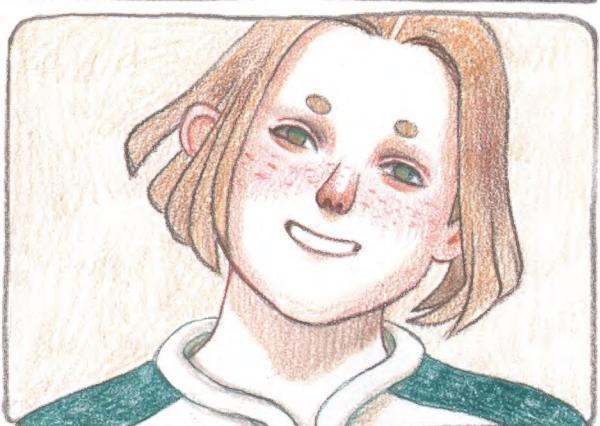
CARMEN GUASCO, MARTA MACOLINO, ALESSIA DE SIO

# BABY FACE

ANNA CERCIGNANO



























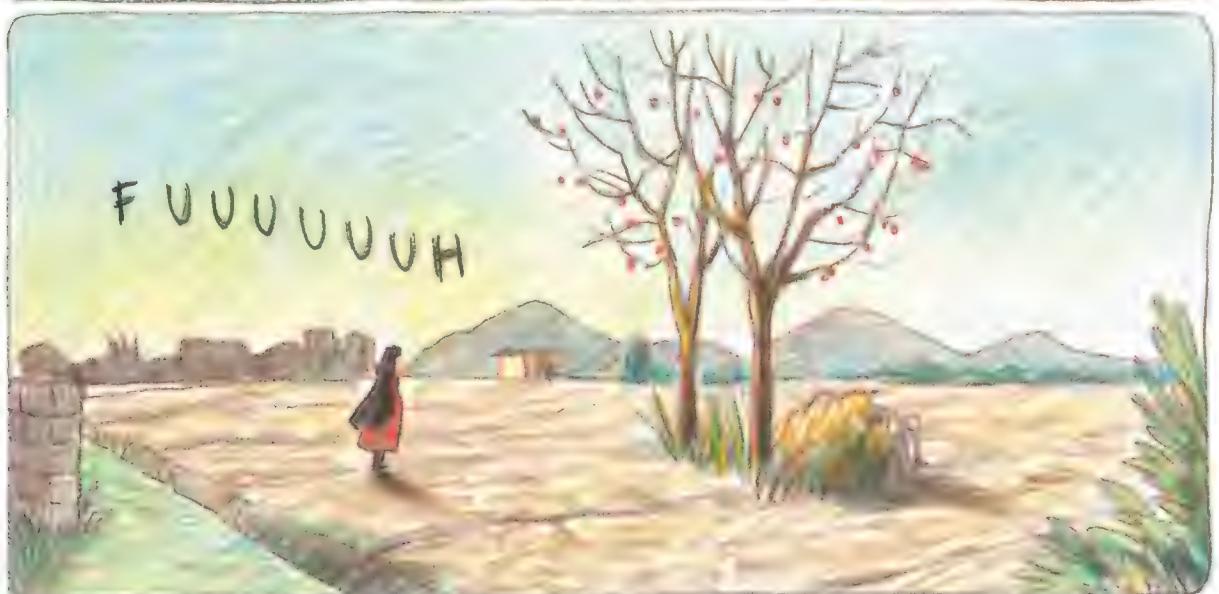


IT'S THAT THESE PEOPLE  
LIKE TO BE PART OF A  
FLOCK: THEY LIKE TO  
FEEL SECURE, TRAPPED  
BY THEIR MEDIOCRITY.

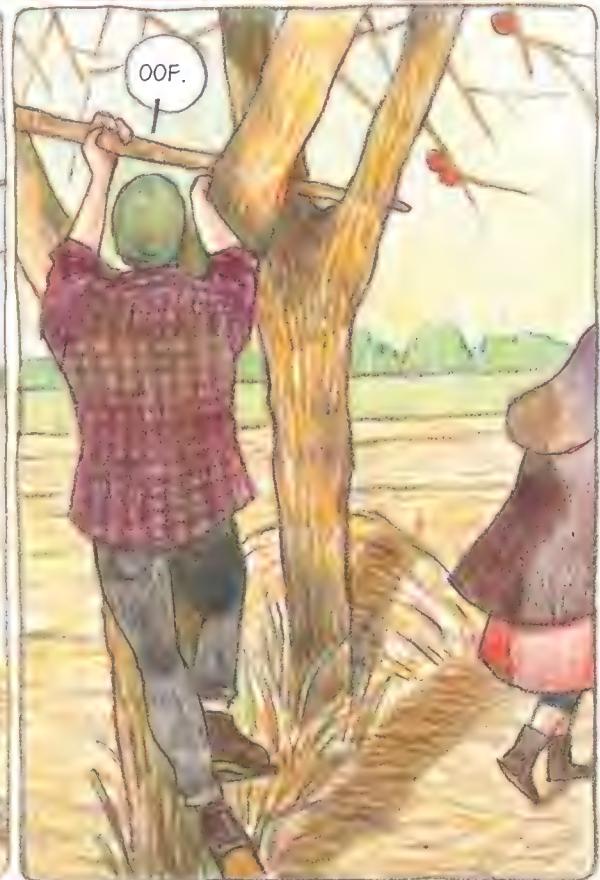
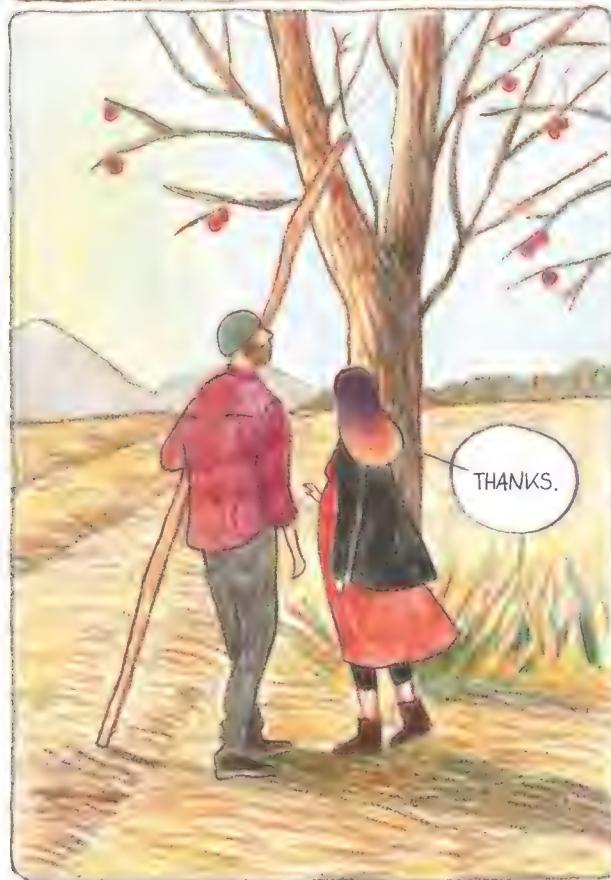
I'M NOT LIKE THEM, I DON'T  
BELONG TO THEM.

AND ABOVE ALL...

I WON'T GIVE  
IN TO YOU,  
BAND OF  
BASTARDS.







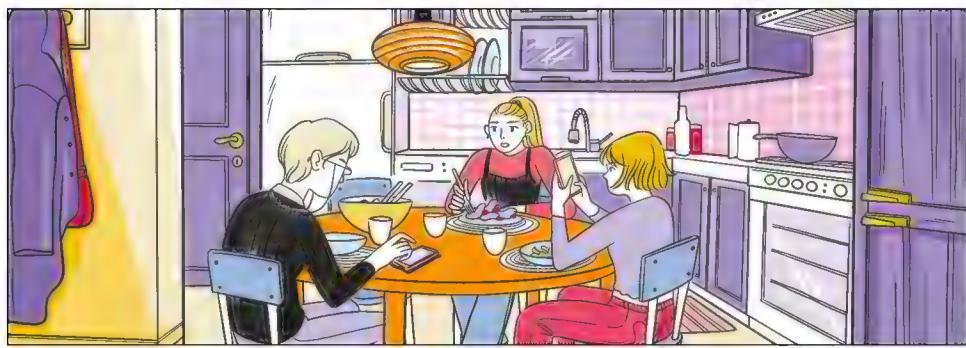
WILL  
THAT  
DO?

IT'S PERFECT.

# SABRINA

ELEONORA ANTONIONI





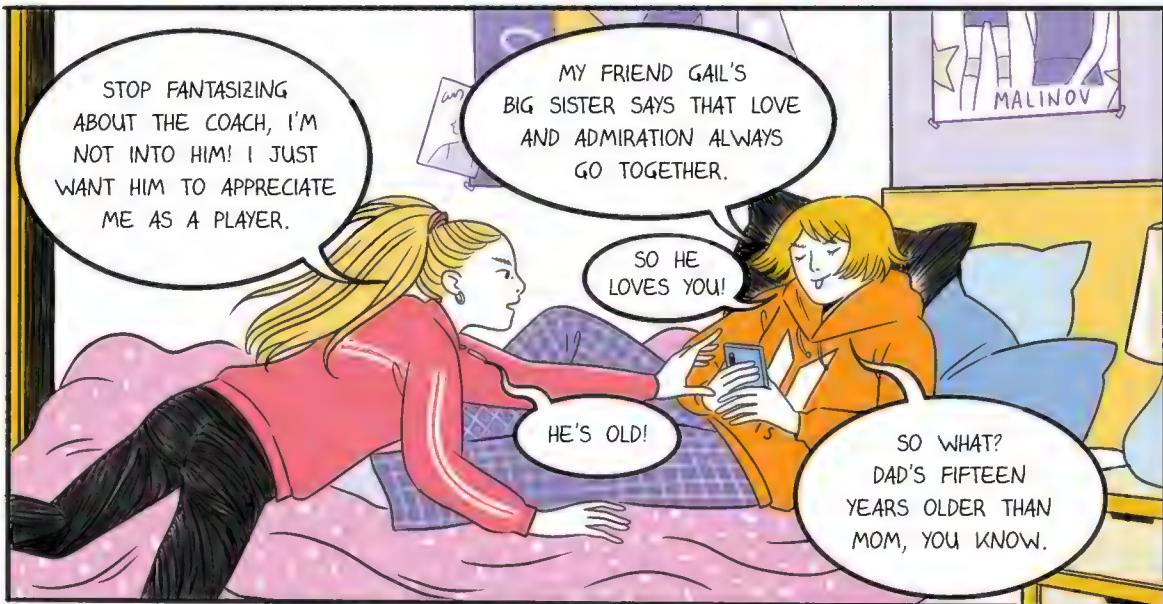




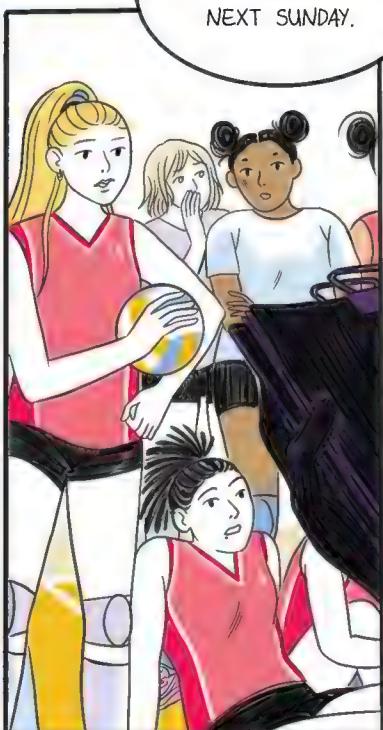












EMMA, VAL,  
JULIA L....



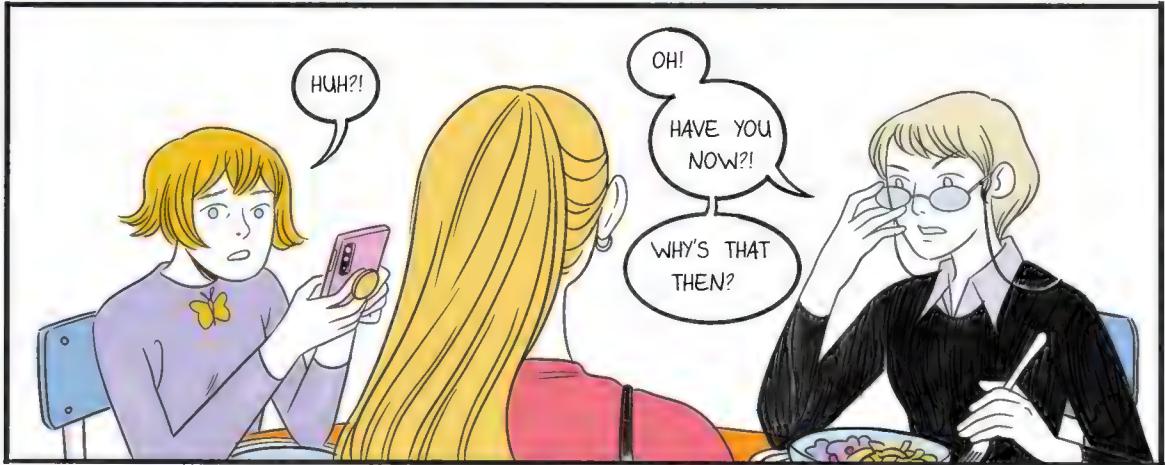








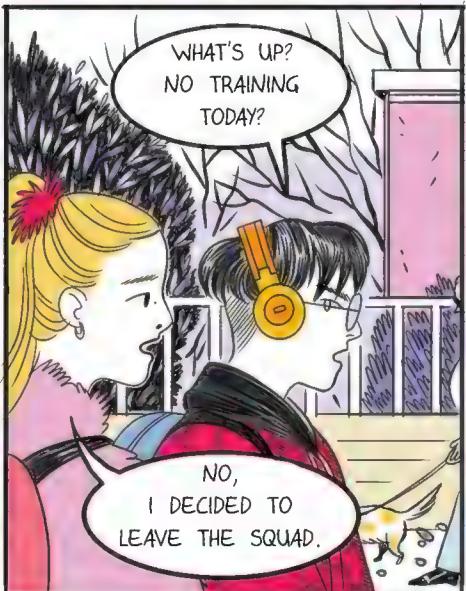
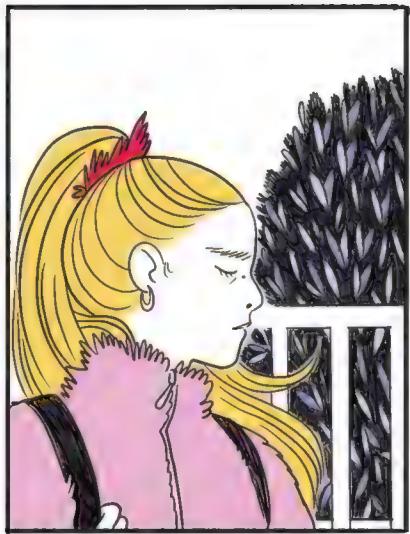
I'VE DECIDED  
TO LEAVE THE  
SQUAD.

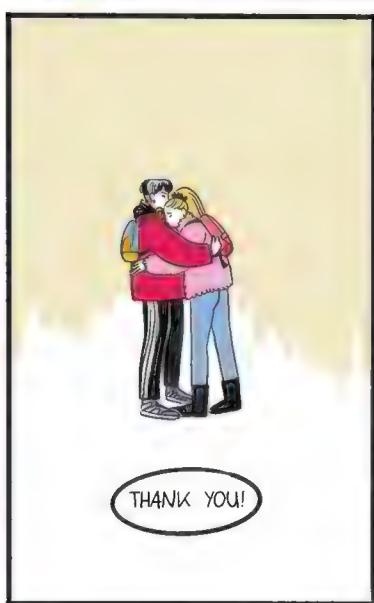












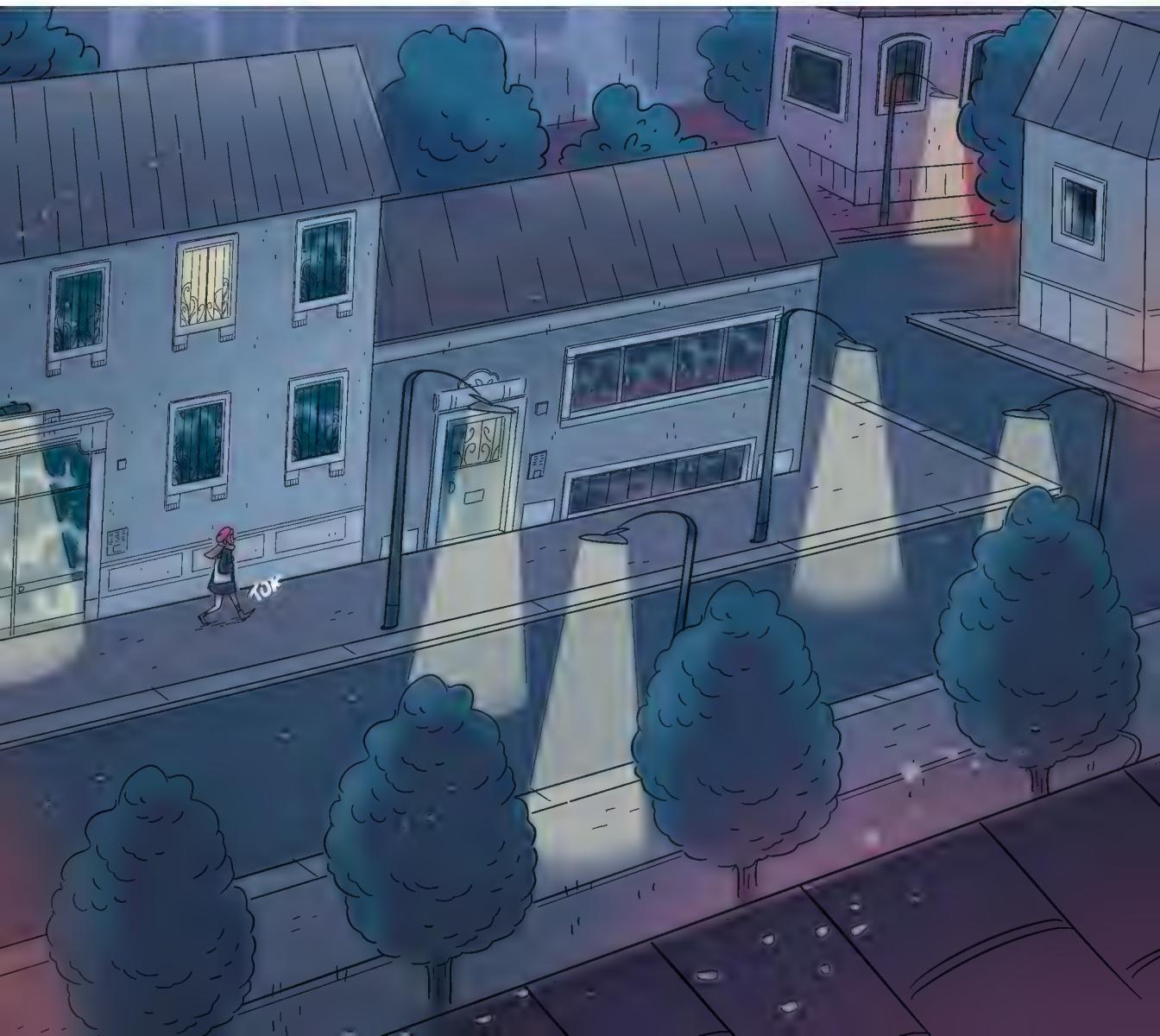
# TEXT ME WHEN YOU GET HOME

MAURIZIA RUBINO





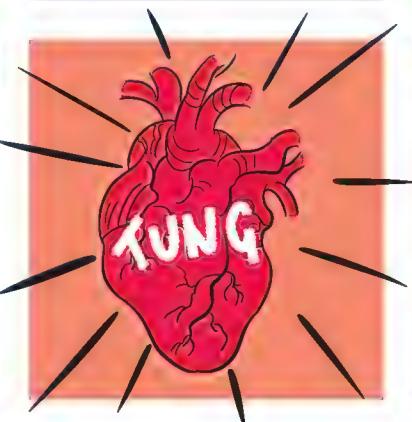
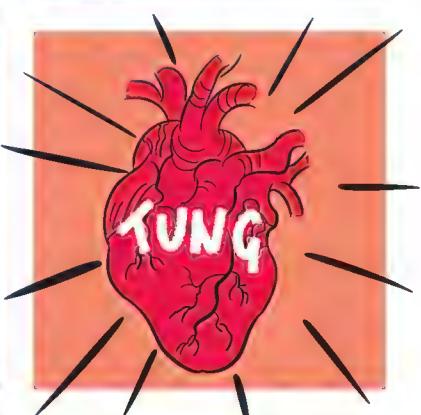
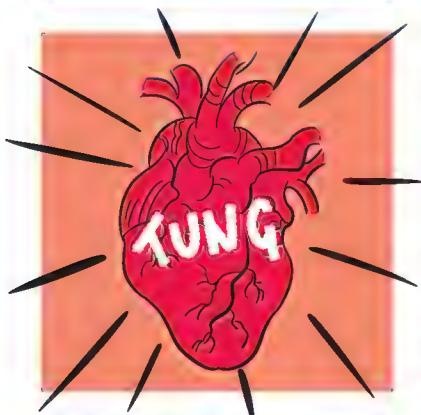










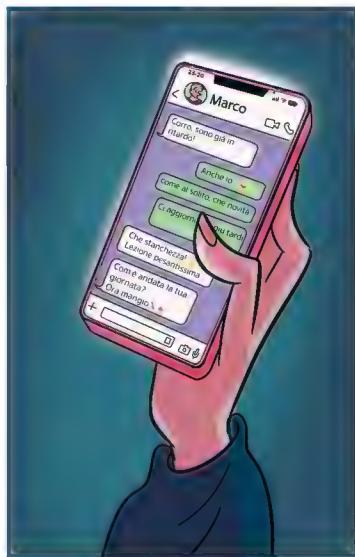












HI, MARK!  
SORRY IT'S SO LATE.  
I'VE JUST SEEN  
YOUR MESSAGE.

I THOUGHT  
IT WOULD BE  
QUICKER  
TO CALL.

YES, I WAS  
AT JULIA'S  
FOR DIN-  
NER.

YES,  
EVERYTHING'S FINE,  
THANKS. I'M JUST  
WALKING HOME.  
BUT...

...OH, RIGHT.  
NOT TO WORRY, I'LL  
CALL TOMORROW.







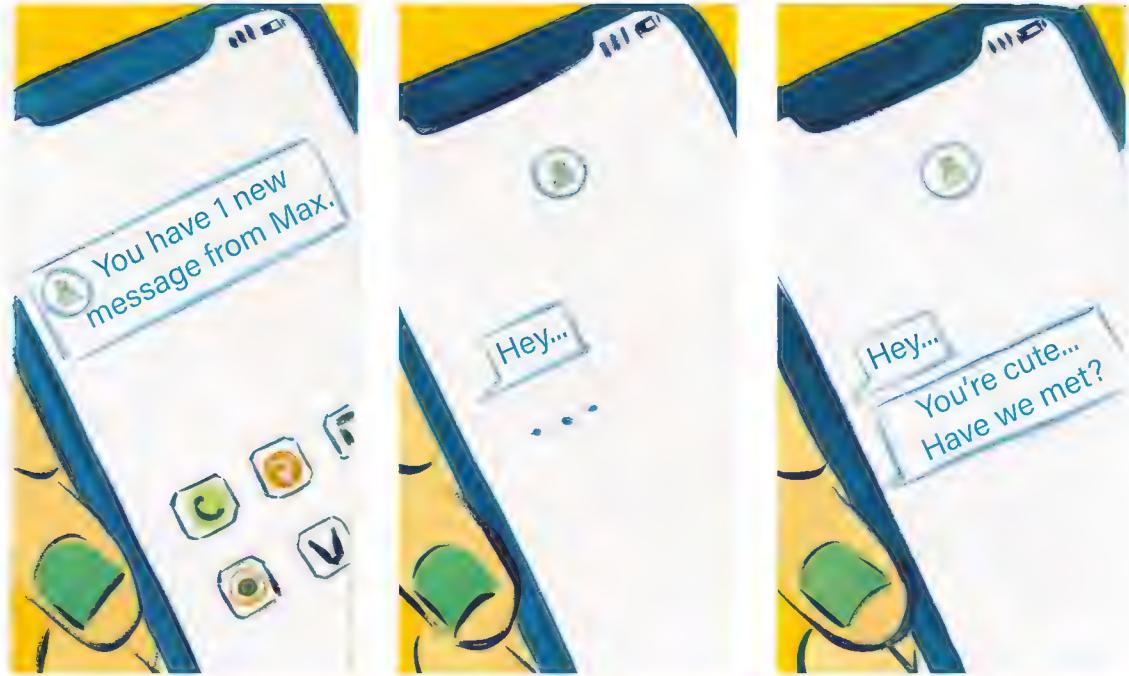
# TWO IN ONE

FRANCESCA TORRE, LA TRAM















I SAW HOW YOU WERE  
LOOKING AT ME...

HOW CAN I RESIST  
WHEN YOU DO THAT?

YOUR FAULT FOR  
BEING SO CUTE.

WANT ME?

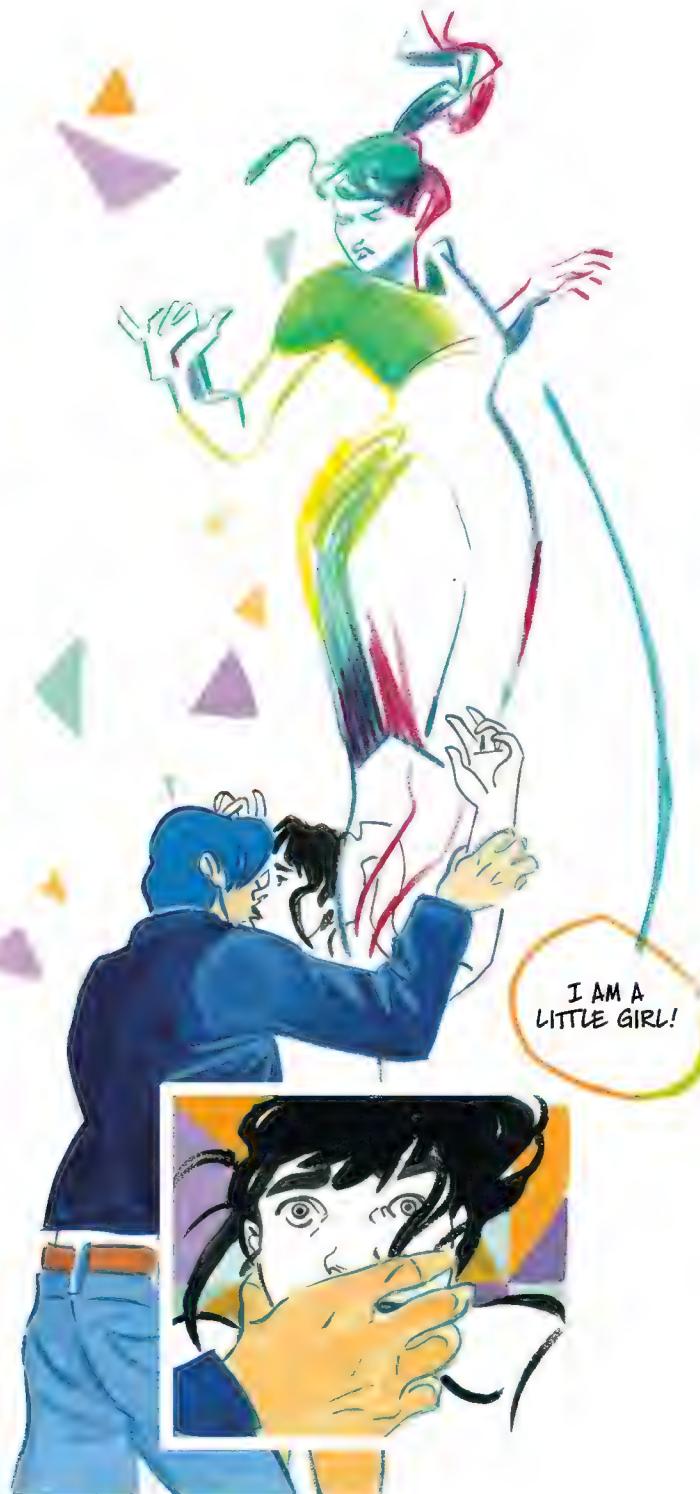
...

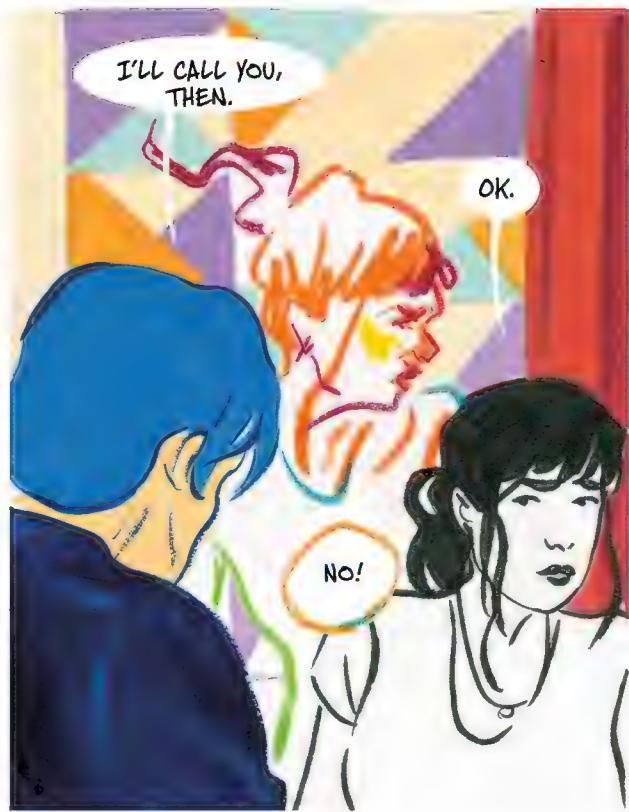
...BUT...

BUT?

I DIDN'T THINK  
THE FIRST TIME  
WOULD BE LIKE THIS.

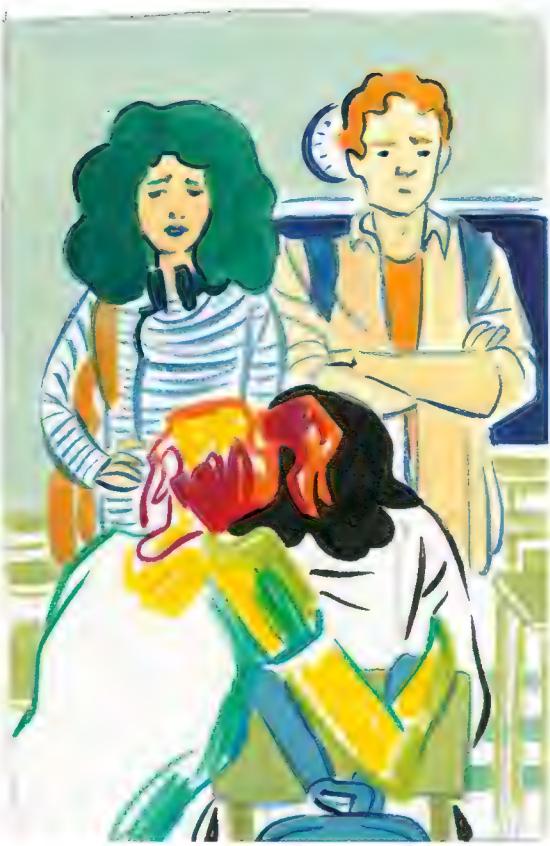
ROMANTIC LOVE IS  
A LITTLE GIRL'S FANTASY.



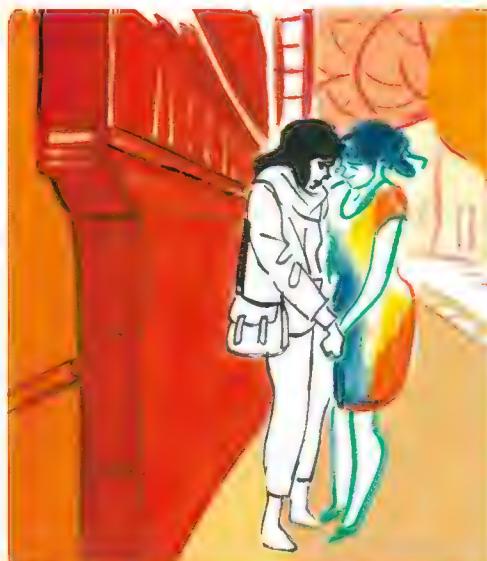














ROSE DID GO HOME.  
SHE PRETENDED  
SHE HAD A FEVER.  
SHE DIDN'T GO OUT  
FOR SEVERAL DAYS.



SHE STARTED LISTENING  
TO HER MUSIC AGAIN AND  
MEETING UP WITH HER  
BEST FRIENDS, ALEX  
AND MARY.

EATING.  
SMILING.

BREATHING.

MAX CALLED HER FOR  
WEEKS AND CAME  
LOOKING FOR HER FOR  
MONTHS.

BUT ROSE HAD MADE  
UP HER MIND. SHE  
WASN'T GOING BACK.

NOT EVEN IF IT  
MEANT LOSING  
PART OF HER-  
SELF.





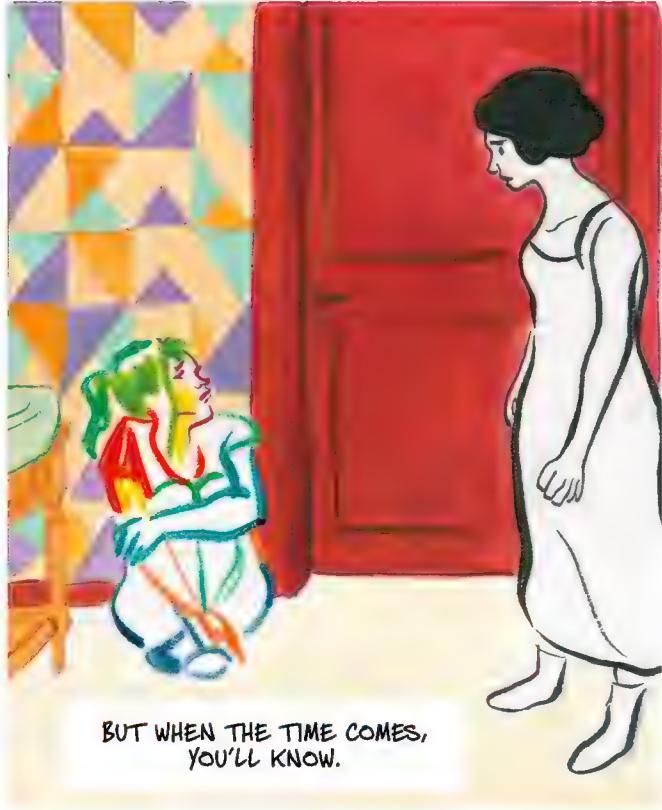


NO ONE CAN DO IT FOR YOU...



...BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO  
DO IT ALONE.



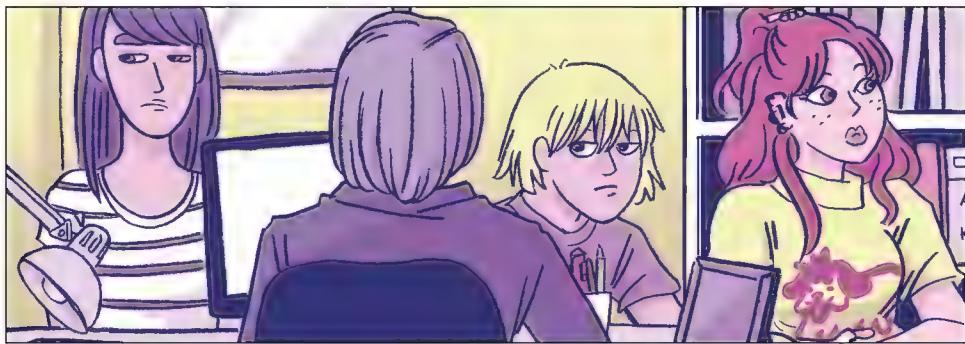




IT'S THE MOMENT WHEN YOU  
STOP BEING AFRAID.

# THE RIGHT THING

LUCIA BIAGI





ONLY A MONTH TILL  
SUMMER BREAK!

Hooray, we're  
nearly there!

I've still got to  
do that science  
test...

DID YOU HEAR  
WHAT HAPPENED  
YESTERDAY?

LAURA AND ISABEL  
HAD A FIGHT!  
STELLA WAS  
THERE TOO!

IZZY BROKE  
HER ARM.

WHO? LAURA  
FROM 11D?

I THOUGHT  
THEY WERE FRIENDS?  
THEY'RE ALWAYS  
TOGETHER!

DUNNO,  
IZZY'S NICE BUT  
A BIT CRAZY...

YEAH, LAURA  
USUALLY SEEMS PRETTY  
CHILL. BUT...

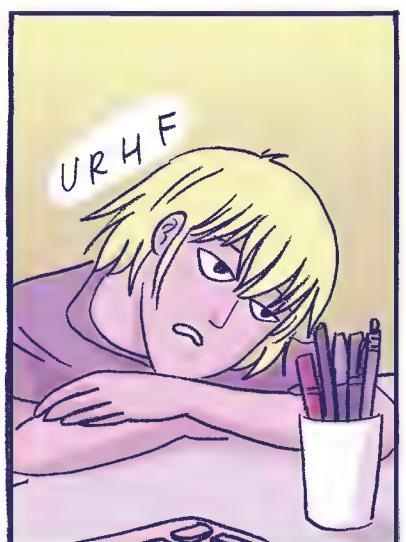
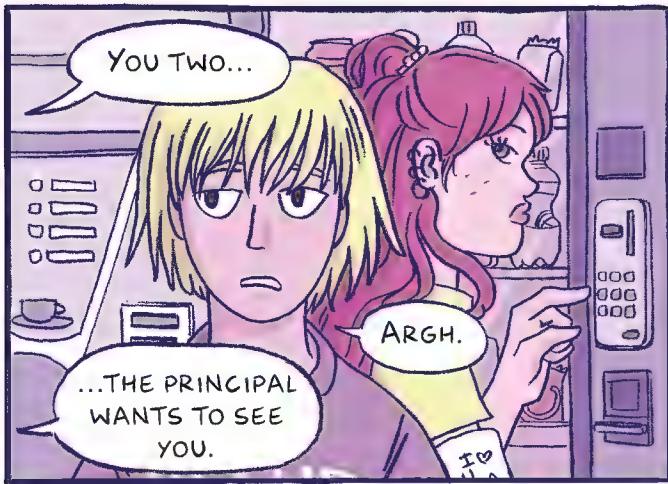
NOW IT LOOKS LIKE  
THERE'S A VIDEO OF HER  
DOING IT WITH A SENIOR  
GIRL!

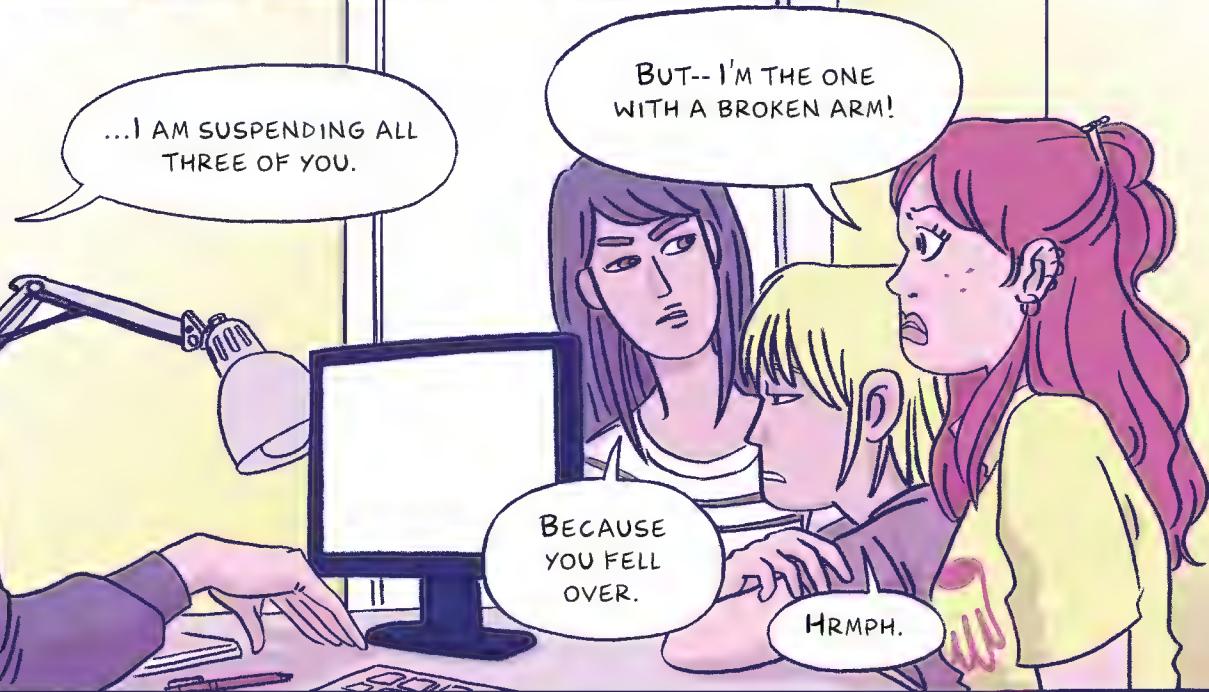
IS SHE LESBIAN?  
THAT'S NEWS! CAN  
I SEE IT?

ASK  
STELLA!

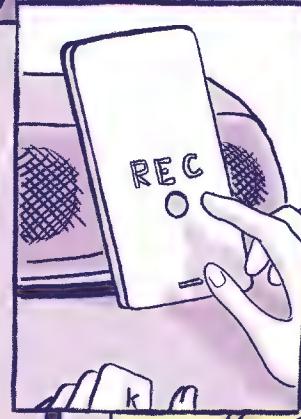
I HEARD SHE'S THE  
ONE WHO'S GOT  
THE VIDEO.

MINE

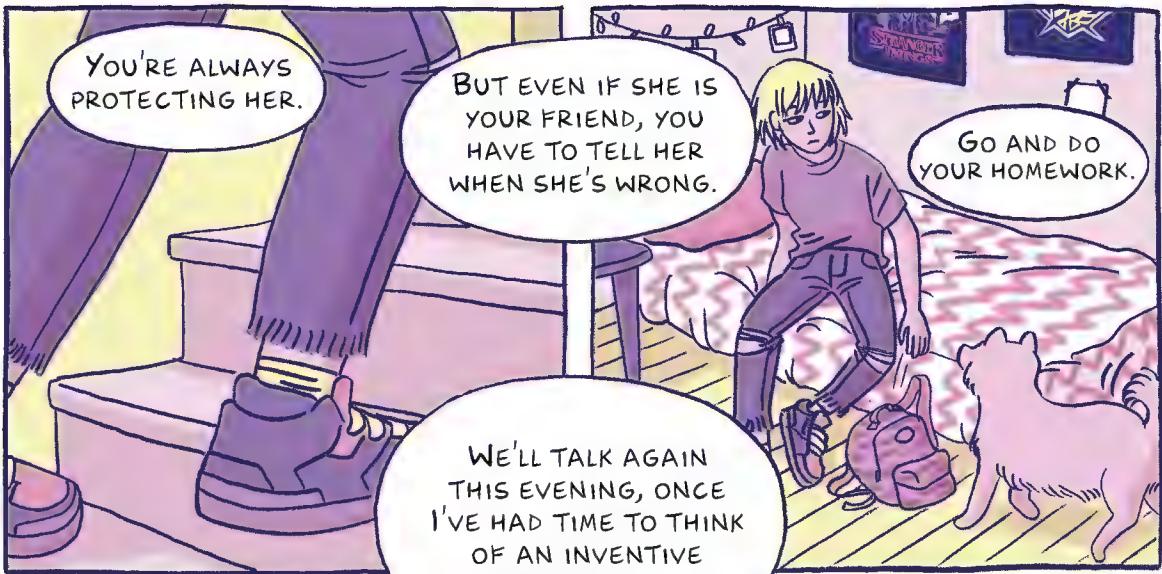


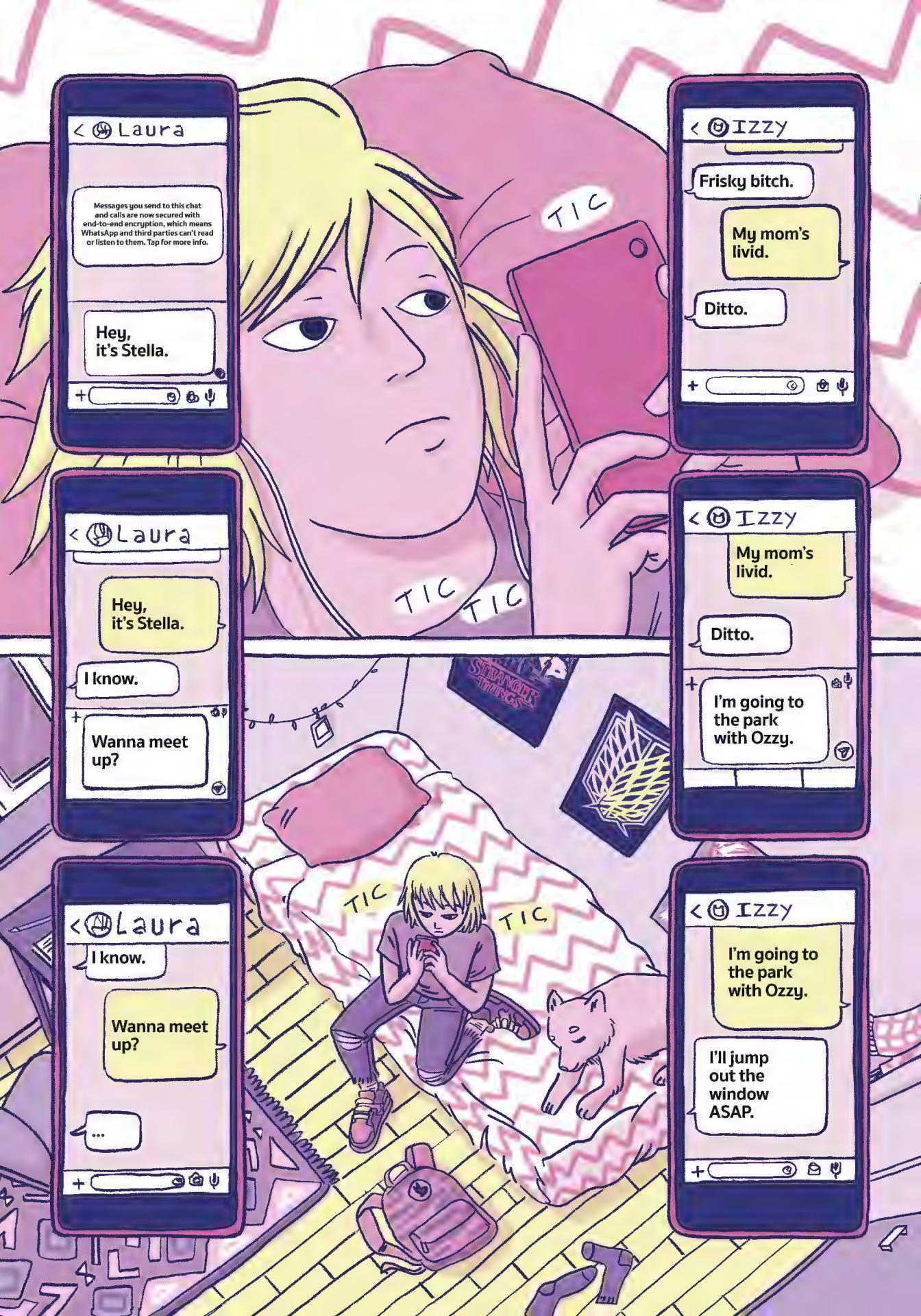












HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIX THIS?



WITH A TIME MACHINE?

MAYBE I COULD GO BACK TO WHEN LAURA WASN'T HERE.

IZZY AND I WERE FINE.



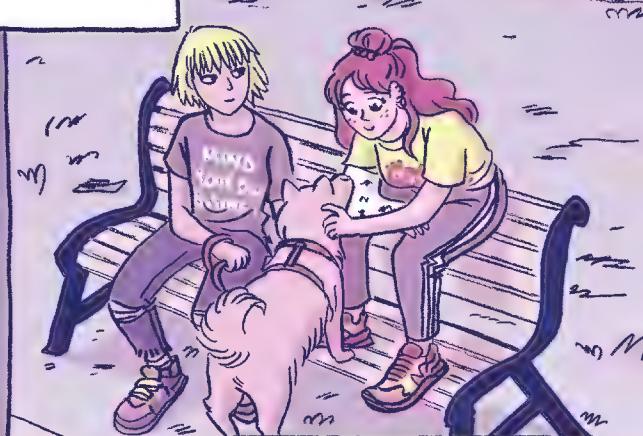
IZZY'S MY FAVORITE PERSON IN THE WHOLE WORLD.

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN FRIENDS, SINCE WE WERE TINY.

I'D STAND UP FOR HER AGAINST ANYONE.

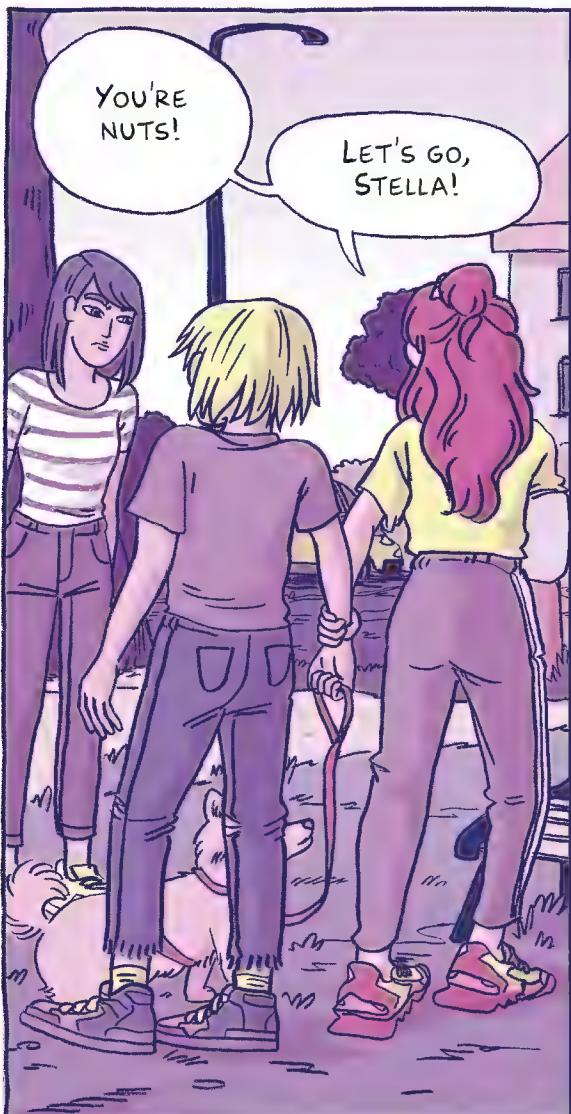


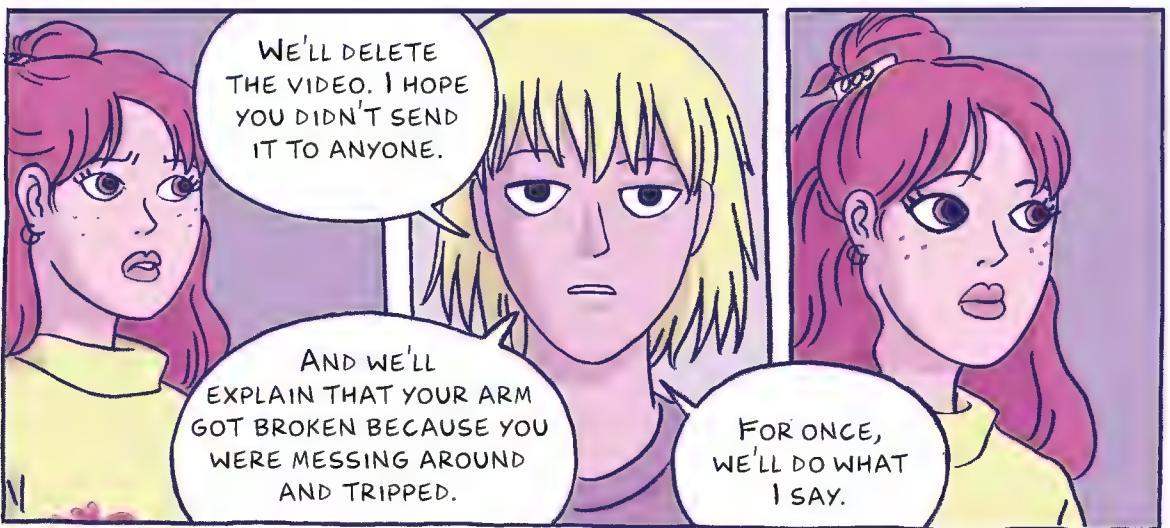
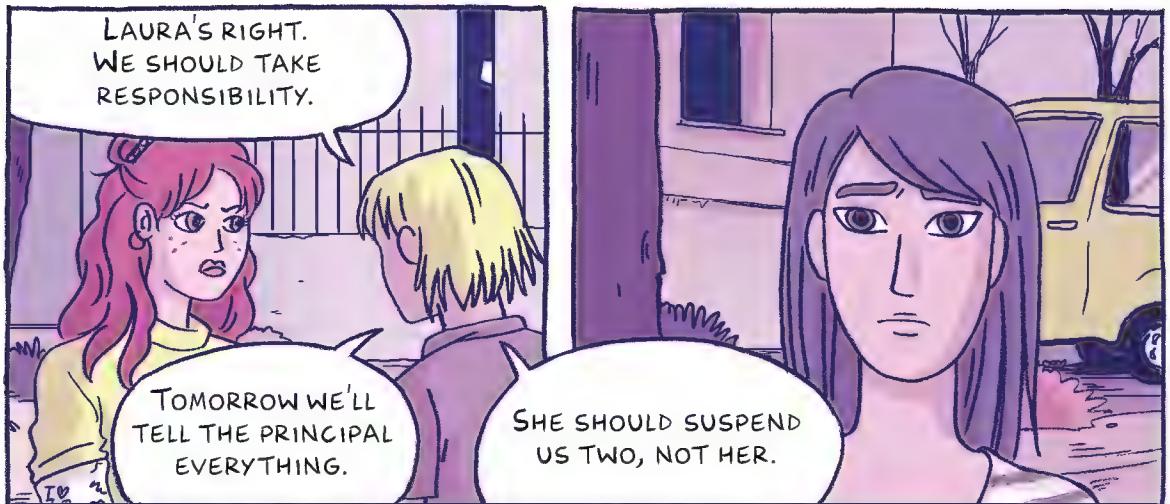
BUT HOW CAN I SAVE HER FROM HERSELF?











THE TRUTH.

WHAT TRUTH?

WE DEFINITELY WON'T SAY THAT IZZY DID IT BECAUSE SHE FEELS SHE ALWAYS HAS TO KEEP EVERYONE HAPPY.

OR THAT I SAID NOTHING BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO BE THE SPOILSPORT AGAIN.

OR THAT DEEP DOWN I WANTED THEM TO ARGUE.

I'LL NEVER SAY THAT.

HOPEFULLY  
THE REST  
WILL BE  
ENOUGH.

AND NEXT  
TIME...

No, I WON'T  
LET THERE BE A  
NEXT TIME.

DID YOU  
HEAR WHAT  
HAPPENED  
YESTERDAY?

THEY CAUGHT  
MARIA STEALING!

MARIA  
FROM 13A?

YEAH! SHE HAD THE  
LAB TABLET IN HER  
BACKPACK!



# THE YELLOW HOODIE

VEGA GUERRIERI, CATERINA FERRANTE









OH WELL, OFF YOU  
GO. DIET STARTS NEXT  
WEEK, OK?



WE'LL GET YOU IN  
SHAPE FOR THE  
SUMMER.



HOW COULD I THINK OF GOING OUT  
IN SUCH A SHORT HOODIE?

TOO LATE TO  
CHANGE IT NOW





HEY, FATSO!

WHERE'S YER "TAXI" SIGN?











OH, THAT'S A NICE BIKINI!



MINE ARE ALL GETTING TATTY...MAYBE I'LL JUST...



HELLO,  
HOW CAN  
I HELP?

OF COURSE,  
SWEETIE.  
SIZE 16?

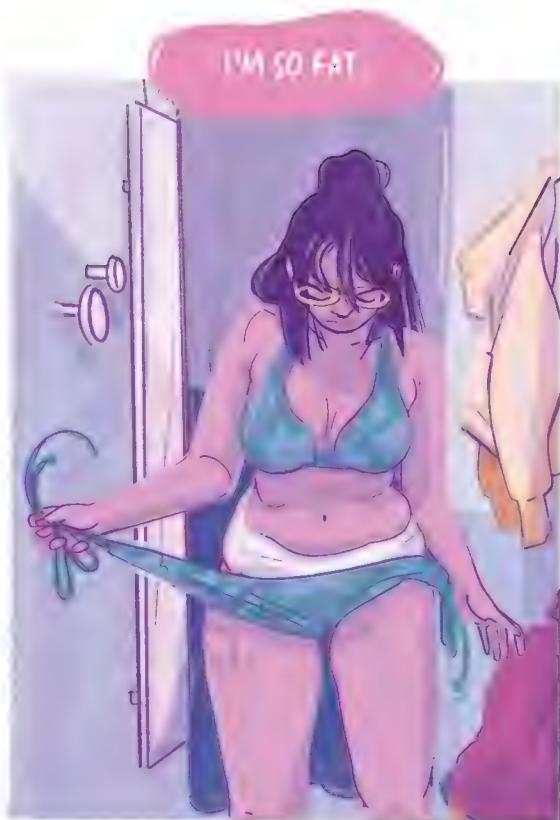
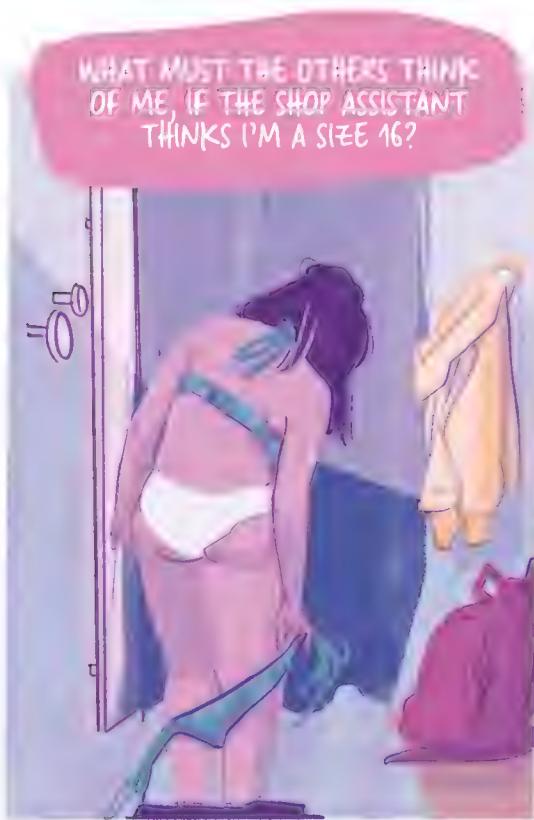
HELLO. I'D LIKE TO TRY THE GREEN-AND-BLUE BIKINI THAT'S IN THE WINDOW, PLEASE.



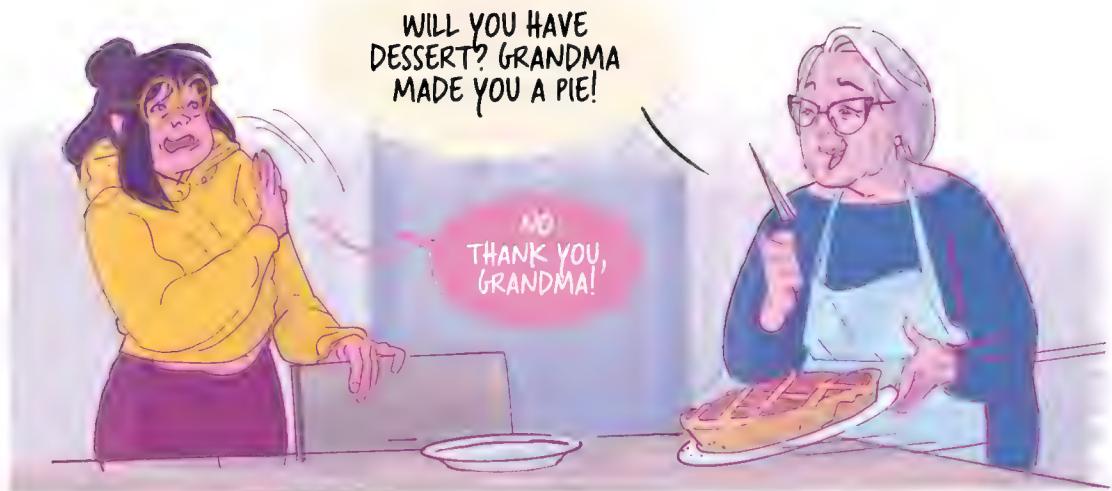
ACTUALLY,  
I USUALLY WEAR SIZE 12.



I SEE...  
I HAVE A GOOD EYE,  
THOUGH. I DON'T THINK  
ANYTHING SMALLER  
THAN A 16 WILL DO,  
WITH YOUR CURVES...I'LL  
BRING IT OUT FOR YOU.









HOW DO THEY ALL STAY SO  
SLIM, LUCKY THINGS?

I DO MY KET,  
BUT NOTHING HAPENS!



MAYBE NOT ENOUGH  
EXERCISE? OR NOT ENOUGH  
WATER?

I'LL HAVE TO TRY  
HARDER!









# CAREFUL

LAURA GUGLIELMO











## Create Character

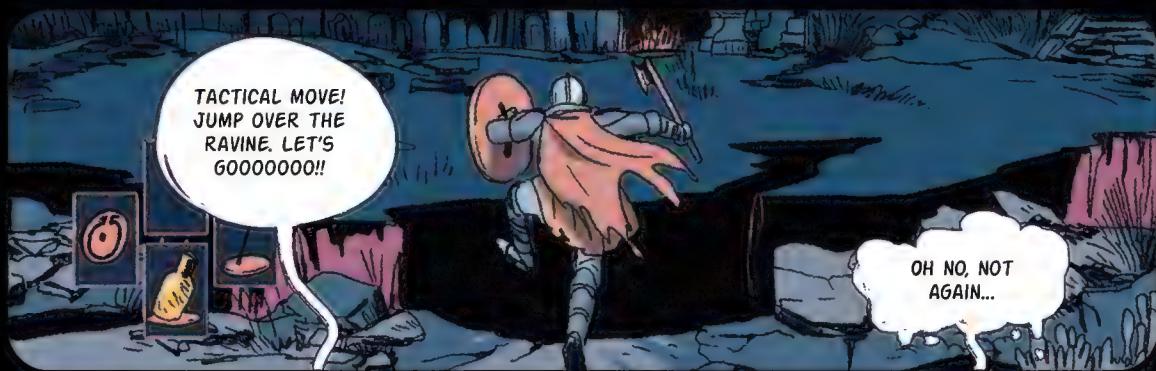




# YOU DIED



# YOU DIED



# YOU DIED





DON'T RIP  
HIM TO  
PIECES LIKE  
THAT!

POOR  
THING!



WE CREATED THAT  
PC TOGETHER, TREAT  
HIM NICELY!

I KNOW YOU  
CARE.



IT'S IRONIC THAT YOU'RE  
SO FULL OF AFFECTION AND  
EMPATHY FOR SOMEONE WHO  
DOESN'T EXIST WHILE YOU  
DAMNED WELL GO AHEAD AND  
CUT YOURSELF TO PIECES.



WHAT....?

THAT...

WHAT'S THAT GOT  
TO DO WITH THIS?

PRESS PAUSE,  
PLEASE.

S-SORRY FOR  
BLURTIN  
IT OUT LIKE  
THAT.

I NEED TO  
TELL YOU  
SOMETHING.

IT'S  
IMPORTANT.

MARIE...

I'VE WANTED  
TO TALK TO  
YOU ABOUT IT  
FOR AGES...

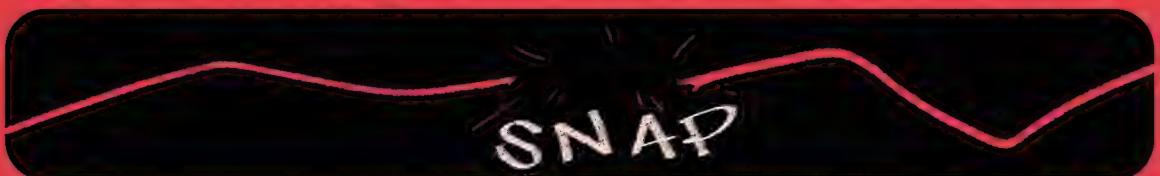


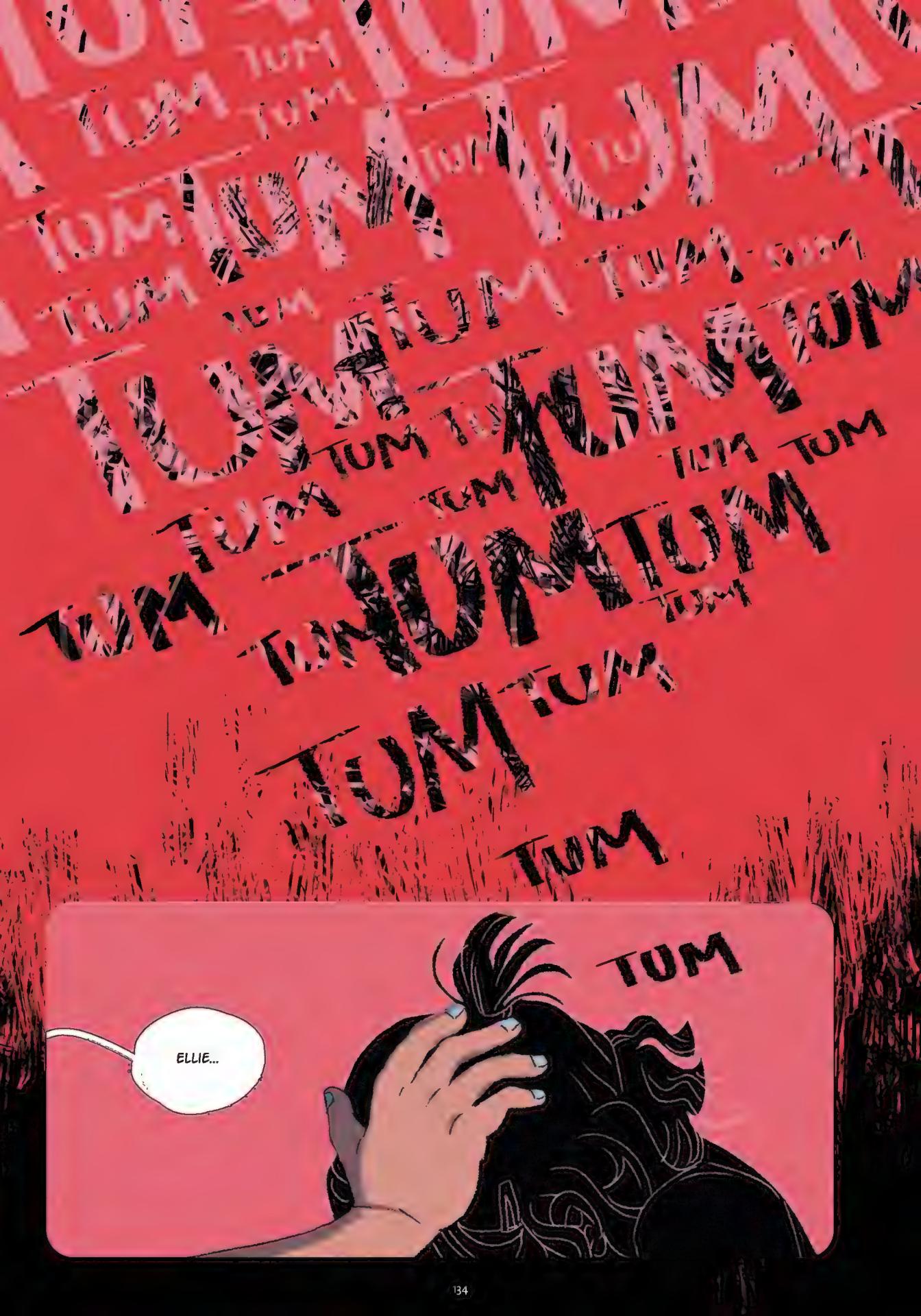
YOU  
SEE...



I...

I KNOW  
YOU HURT  
YOURSELF.





ELLIE...

TUM



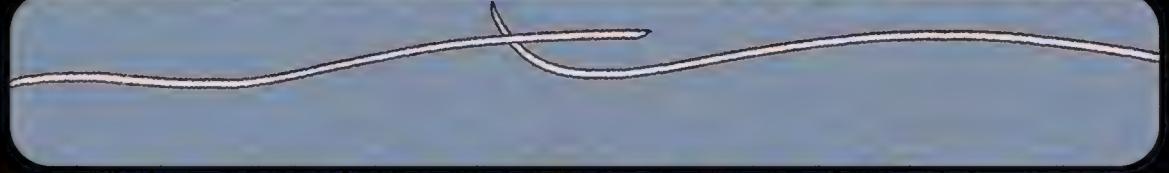
SORRY, I DIDN'T  
WANT TO UPSET  
YOU EVEN MORE.



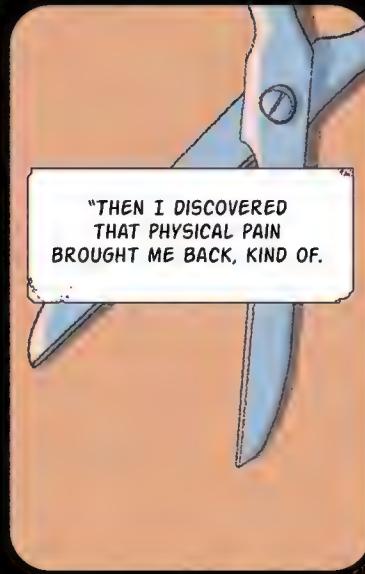
I'M JUST  
WORRIED TO  
DEATH.



I KNOW IT MIGHT BE A  
SHITTY QUESTION, BUT I'M  
GOING TO ASK IT ANYWAY  
BECAUSE I WANT TO UN-  
DERSTAND...YOU DON'T HAVE  
TO ANSWER, OK?



CAN YOU  
TELL ME WHY YOU  
DO IT?





"I STARTED DOING IT  
OBSESSIVELY, THOUGH I WAS  
ASHAMED AS HELL.

"THEN THINGS GOT WORSE WHEN  
ALEX LEFT ME...ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T TELL  
YOU EXACTLY HOW THAT WENT, EITHER.



"AT SOME POINT, HE GOT UP SAYING HE NEEDED TO GO AND MAKE A CALL.

"HE TOOK ME OUT FOR DINNER AND WAS BEHAVING RIDICULOUSLY NICELY, WHICH HE HADN'T DONE FOR MONTHS."



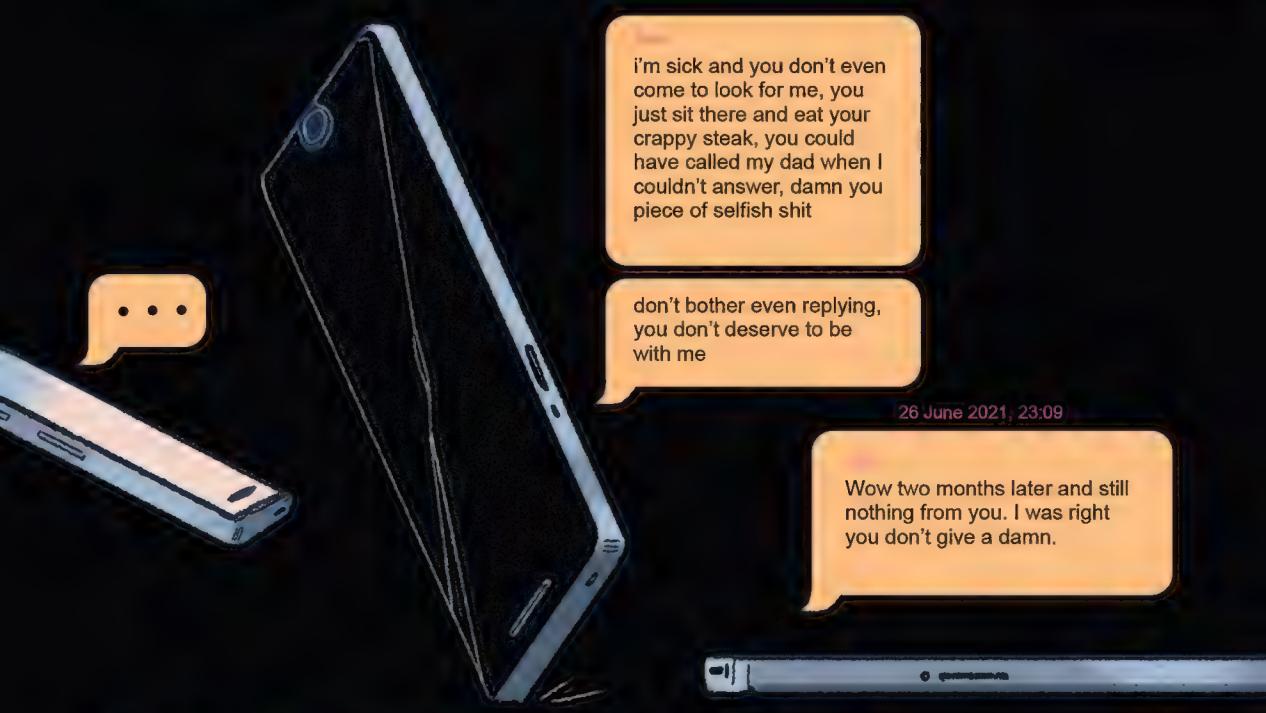
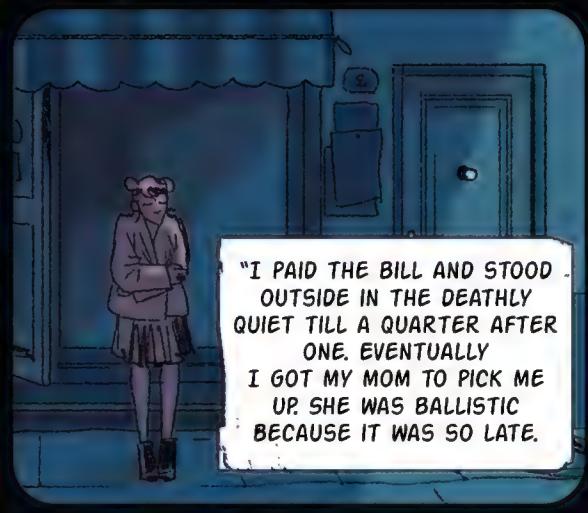
21 April 2021, 08:24

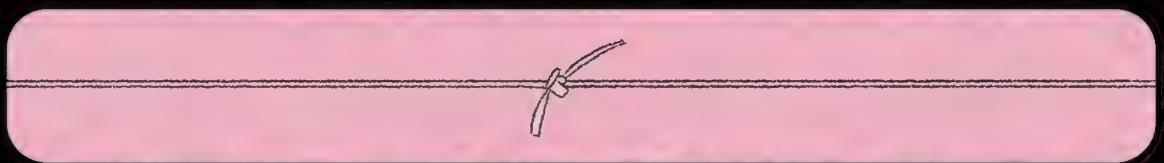


"HE RESURFACED THE NEXT DAY."

I knew you were a bitch who doesn't care a shit about me









# UNDER PRESSURE

DAVIDE COSTA, ELISA2B







LOOK AT THAT  
FLABBY BELLY.

ZERO  
MUSCLES.

A BEANPOLE WITH  
A BELLY. THE WORST  
OF BOTH WORLDS.  
GREAT.

WHAT  
A JERK.

A JERK  
WHO'S LATE.

NOT MUCH CHANCE  
OF CATCHING HER,  
IS THERE.

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT, DAMMIT. AT LEAST I WASH EVERY DAY.

BECAUSE YOU'RE A PUSSY. DO YOU DO YOUR EYELASHES?

SHAVE YOUR LEGS?

YOU SHOULD GIVE YOUR PUBES A BIT OF A MOW THOUGH, MAKE IT LOOK BIGGER.

SHAVING ASIDE, YOU COULD DO WITH A CHANGE OF GOODS. HA HA HA!

NO HOPE WITH THAT LITTLE PRICK.

MY DICK IS PERFECTLY AVERAGE, ASSHOLE.

SURE, AVERAGE FOR A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD :D

LISTEN, COCK EXPERT. HOW MANY DO YOU LOOK AT A DAY?

KNOW HOW MANY SHE SEES EVERY WEEK?

THAT SLUT DOESN'T LET ANY GET AWAY.

SOMETIMES TWO AT ONCE, I BET.

JUDGING BY HER ORGY FACE.

THINK OF ALL THAT EXPERIENCE IN ONE PUSSY.

HAHAHA.

SPU



AND YOU  
NONE!

NADA,  
NIENTE,  
ZILCH!

IN THE DISTRICT. IN  
THE WHOLE CITY. HOW  
THE HELL ARE YOU A  
VIRGIN AT SEVENTEEN?

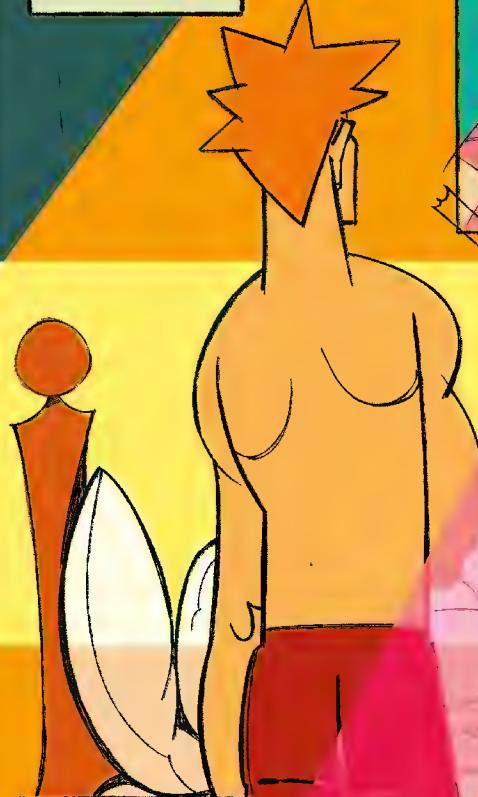
THESE DAYS IF YOU  
WANT TO SCREW...  
YOU CAN USE  
DATING APPS?

EXCEPT THEY  
WANT TO SHAG  
FIT PEOPLE,  
ESPECIALLY  
MARA.

THE LEAST  
TOUCHED PRICK  
IN SCHOOL.



THEY'RE FULL  
OF BABES WHO  
WANT TO SHAG,  
DOOFUS.



RIGHT, SHE DOESN'T  
WANT A GUY WHO'S  
SCARED OF HIS OWN  
SHADOW WHEN HE  
GOES OUTSIDE.

EVERYONE  
KNOWS SHE'S AN  
EASY CATCH.

SOMEONE WHO HAS  
TO REHEARSE EV-  
ERY SENTENCE BE-  
FORE HE TALKS.

SHE'S A  
SURE THING,  
THIS ONE.

SHE DOESN'T MISS  
A TRICK, SHE COL-  
LECTS BOTH VINYL  
AND MICS, YOU KNOW.

IF YOU CAN'T GET  
IT ON WITH ONE  
LIKE HER, SCREW  
YOURSELF.

'CAUSE DEEP  
DOWN...



## Bellimbusto Academy

1,237

56K

0

Posts

Followers Following

Bellimbusto Academy

YOU PROBABLY  
REALLY LIKE...

Follow

Message

...COCK. YOU'RE  
TOO WEIRD TO  
BE STRAIGHT.

THAT'S WHY YOU STARE AT MUSCLEY MEN, HUH?

YOU NEED TO GET FIT FOR THE GIRLS, DOOFUS.

WHEN YOU GET NEAR HER, SHE HAS TO FEEL YOUR PRESENCE, EVEN WHEN SHE'S NOT LOOKING.

MOST OF ALL, DOMINATE HER.

WITHOUT HER KNOWING.

BUT YOU'RE THE REAL BOSS OF THE SITUATION.

YOU HAVE TO BE DIRECT, DECISIVE, SHARP.

OR IS IT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE PISSED OFF ABOUT LOOKING LIKE YOU'RE TWELVE?

BROAD SHOULDERS, THIN WAIST, STRONG THIGHS.

YOU HAVE TO DOMINATE THE ROOM, KEEP ANY OTHER ASSHOLES AT BAY.

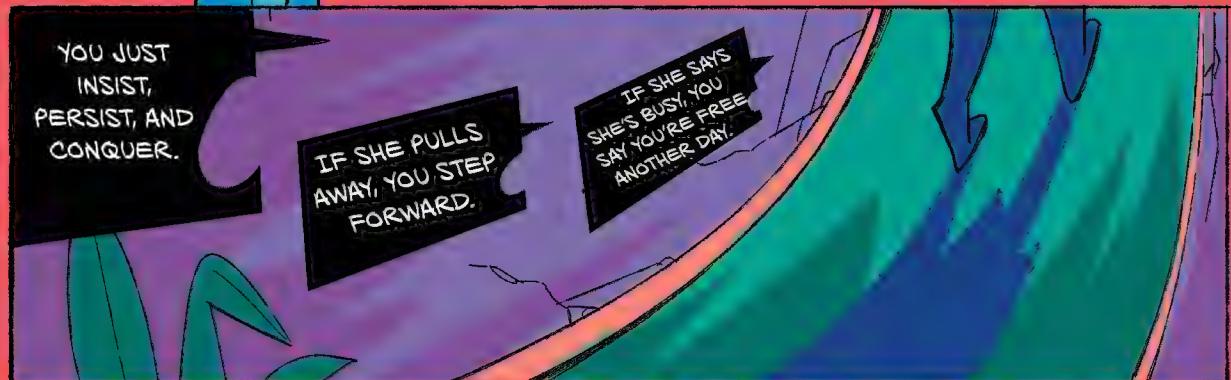
X | +  
10 MISTAKES NEVER TO MAKE ON THE FIRST DATE

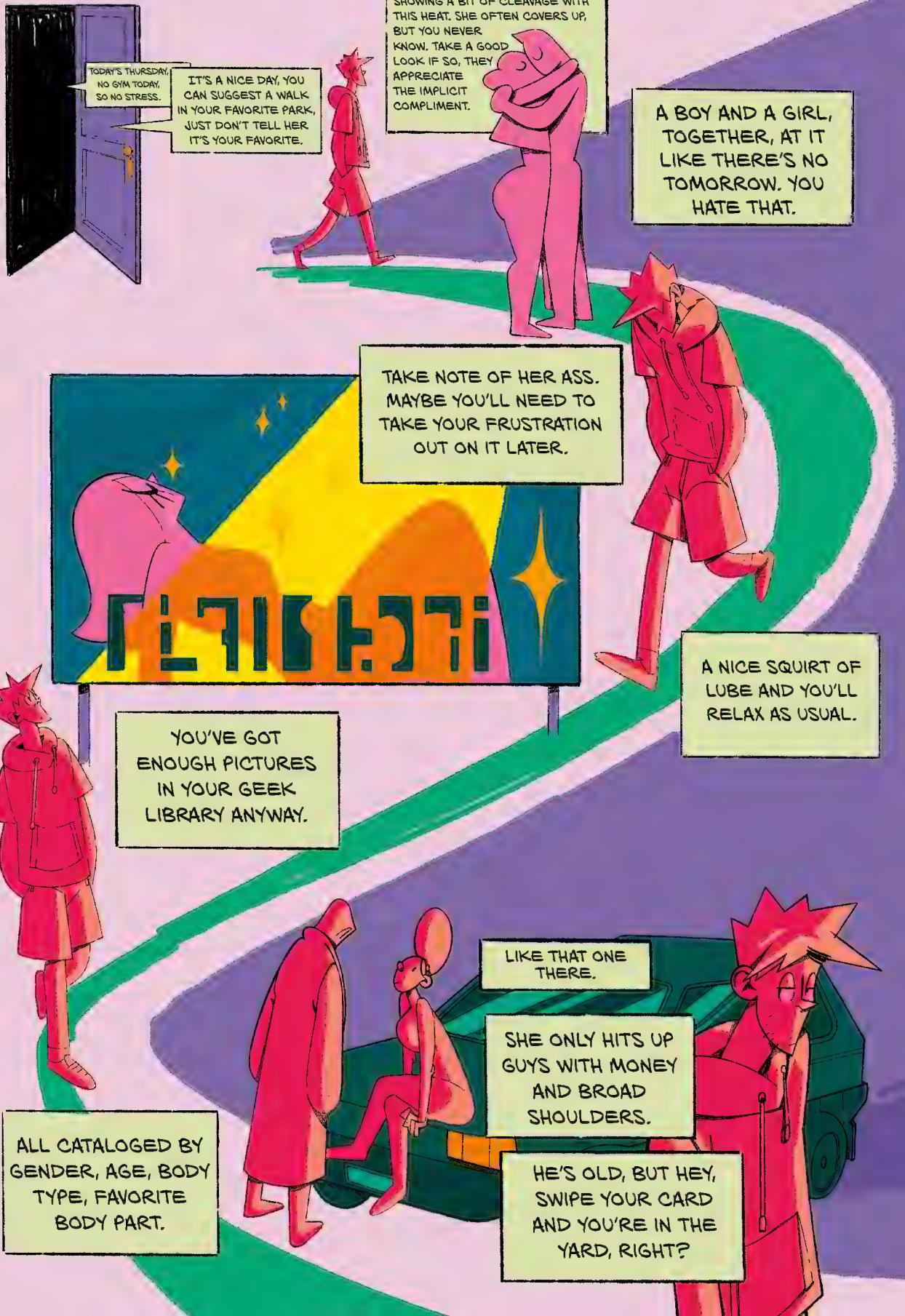
LIFE COACH

SHE HAS TO THINK SHE'S IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT.

AND IF SHE SAYS NO...

...SHE  
REALLY  
MEANS  
YES!





NOT  
YOU,  
PENNILESS.

CHARISMA  
OF A  
SQUID.

BARELY  
STRONG  
ENOUGH TO  
BLOW  
A SOAP  
BUBBLE.



ONLY  
THEORETICAL  
KNOWLEDGE  
OF THE  
FEMALE  
BODY.



OBSessive  
DESIRE  
TO TOUCH  
A WOMAN.



CHARM SHE  
WON'T FIND  
EVEN IF SHE  
SEARCHES  
ONLINE.



SENSE OF  
HUMOR: FLAT  
AS A PANCAKE.



HEAD LIKE  
A HOT AIR  
BALLOON.

NEARLY THERE,  
DUDE.

YOU'RE  
SWEATING.  
SHE'LL NOTICE.

THAT THROBBING YOU CAN  
FEEL IS YOUR FEAR THAT SHE  
AND HER FRIENDS WILL  
LAUGH AT YOU.

REMEMBER: INSIST,  
THEY LIKE IT.

THOSE BUTTERFLIES  
IN YOUR STOMACH COULD  
TURN INTO VOMIT ANY  
SECOND.

BUT JUST GET A  
MOVE ON NOW...



WHAT A  
STUNNER.

FABULOUS  
BACKSIDE.

DRINK, DINNER IF YOU PLAY  
IT WELL, AND THEN AAAAH.

...SHE'S COMING OUT  
OF THE SHOP!

NO CLEAVAGE BUT  
YOU CAN SEE THERE'S  
PLENTY THERE.

SHE WANTS YOU TO  
WANT MORE.

I CAN TELL SHE  
WANTS IT FROM  
HERE.

GO ON,  
DOOFUS, NOW  
OR NEVER.

CLEAR YOUR THROAT  
BEFORE YOU SPLUTTER  
ALL OVER HER WHEN  
YOU SAY HI.

TUMMY IN,  
SHOULDERS  
BACK.

THE FIRST  
IMPRESSION  
IS MOST  
IMPORTANT,  
MAN.

LOOK HER IN THE EYE,  
BUT GLANCE DOWN  
THERE TOO, TO FLATTER  
HER.

DECISIVE,  
SMILING, THE  
PENETRATING  
LOOK.

OTHER KINDS OF  
PENETRATION  
LATER, HAHAHA.



HI!  
DO YOU  
MIND IF...

SHE CAN'T  
HEAR YOU,  
LOSER.

YOU HAVE THE  
OBSERVATIONAL SKILLS OF  
A MORON. YOU WOULDN'T  
FIND HER BOOBJS IF THEY  
SLAPPED YOU IN THE FACE.

SHE HAS  
HEADPHONES  
ON, BUT  
NEVER MIND.

PUT A HAND ON  
HER SHOULDER  
AND GRAB HER  
ATTENTION.

..

YOU'RE  
THERE!

GOT HER!

SHE'S YOURS.  
NOW DON'T MESS  
IT UP, YOU'RE  
NEARLY ON IT.

NOT LONG AND  
YOU'LL HAVE HAD  
HER GOOD AND  
PROPER. OH HO HO.

DON'T LET  
HER GO,  
DOOFUS.

HEY,  
MARA!  
HI...

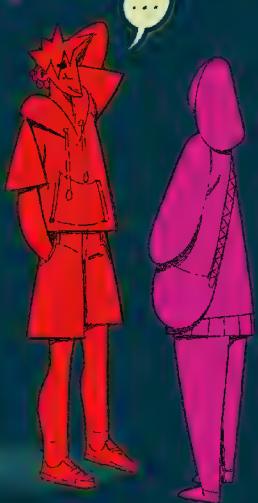
A large purple hooded figure with a speech bubble containing the text "HEY, MARA! HI..."

...IT'S MARCUS.  
WE MET A FEW TIMES  
IN THE SHOP WHILE YOU  
WERE WORKING AND ONE  
TIME I WAS THERE WHEN YOU  
WERE SORTING THE NEW  
RELEASES. YOU NEARLY  
DROPPED A DISC AND I CAUGHT  
IT FOR YOU. THAT'S HOW  
I KNOW YOUR NAME, I  
INTRODUCED MYSELF AND  
YOU SAID I SHOULD  
CALL YOU MARA.





The image is a dark, moody illustration. It features several instances of the word "WHORE" written in a hand-drawn, red font. These words are arranged in a diagonal pattern across the upper half of the image, with some words partially cut off at the top and bottom edges. The background is a dark teal or black color with some subtle texture or light rays. In the bottom right corner, there is a small, dark drawing of two figures. One figure is a male with spiky hair and a determined expression, wearing a red t-shirt and shorts. Next to him is a female figure with a speech bubble above her head, though no text is visible in the bubble. The overall style is graphic and expressive.



YOU GIVE  
EVERYONE  
BLOWJOBS AND  
YOU WON'T EVEN  
MEET HIM??

YOU'RE NOT  
EVEN GOOD  
LOOKING.

WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING JUST  
STANDING  
THERE? ASK  
HER AGAIN!

LISTEN,  
I...

FIRM VOICE,  
NO MUMBLING,  
DICKHEAD.  
INSIST,  
INSIST,  
INSIST.



WHERE ARE YOUR  
BALLS, ASSHOLE?

YOU'RE SUCH A  
LOSER.

TOMORROW AT THE GYM  
EVERYONE WILL LAUGH AT YOU.

I'M TELLING  
YOU, YOU LIKE  
COCK, YOU  
JUST WON'T  
ADMIT IT.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE  
A LAUGHINGSTOCK  
FOR THE WHOLE  
SCHOOL. THE ENTIRE  
CITY!

STUNTED  
FUCKWIT.

YOU'LL CRY LATER WHEN  
YOU MASTURBATE WITH  
HER PHOTO, IDIOT.



WE WERE  
LUCKY THIS  
TIME.

WAIT TILL  
HE GETS A BIT  
FURTHER AWAY,  
KEEP HIM IN  
SIGHT.

AND HOLD  
YOUR KEYS.

MAYBE YOU  
GAVE HIM  
THE WRONG  
MESSAGE.

THESE TROUSERS  
ARE WIDE. THEY'RE  
NOT SEXY, RIGHT?

HOW DID  
HE KNOW  
YOU'RE  
SINGLE?

WE NEED TO  
BE MORE  
SEXY.

WE COULD  
LOSE SOME  
WEIGHT.

EVERYONE  
DOES IT,  
RIGHT?

HE KNOWS  
WHICH WAY WE  
WALK!

DID WE USE  
TOO MUCH  
MAKEUP?



HE MIGHT FOLLOW US.

WE NEED TO CROSS OVER.

GRAB YOUR PHONE.

TEXT A FRIEND.

MAYBE WE SMILED TOO MUCH.

LET'S TAKE THE LONG WAY ROUND, IT'S BETTER LIT.

IS HE FOLLOWING?

DOES HE KNOW WHERE I LIVE?

I'M TOO HARSH. MAYBE I'M FRIGID.

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE DECISIVE.

IF I DON'T MAKE A MOVE, I'LL ALWAYS BE SINGLE.

IS HE FOLLOWING?

LIKE THAT OLD GUY TEN YEARS AGO.

BUT IF HE'S STRONGER...

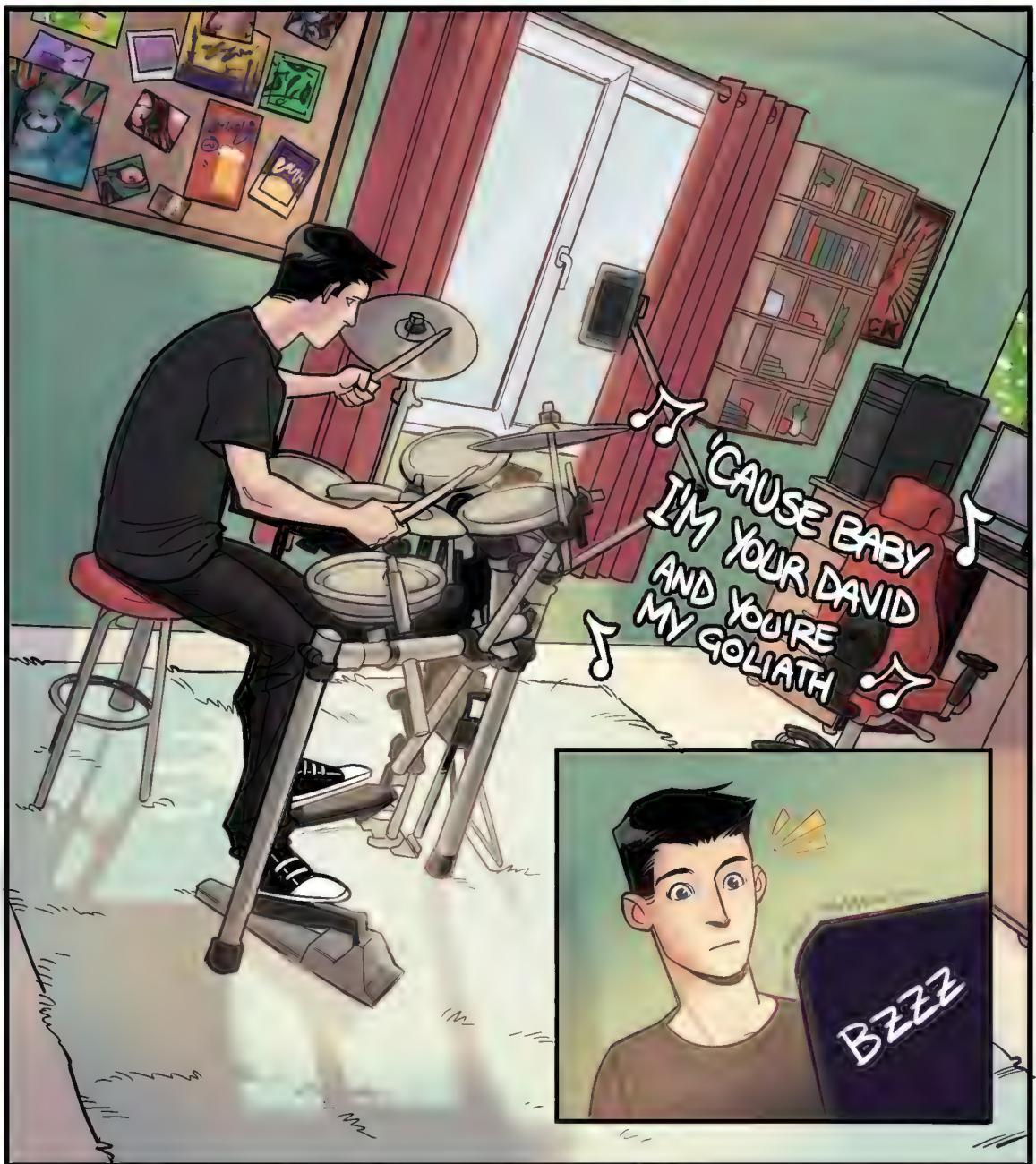
IS HE FOLLOWING?

# LISTEN TO ME

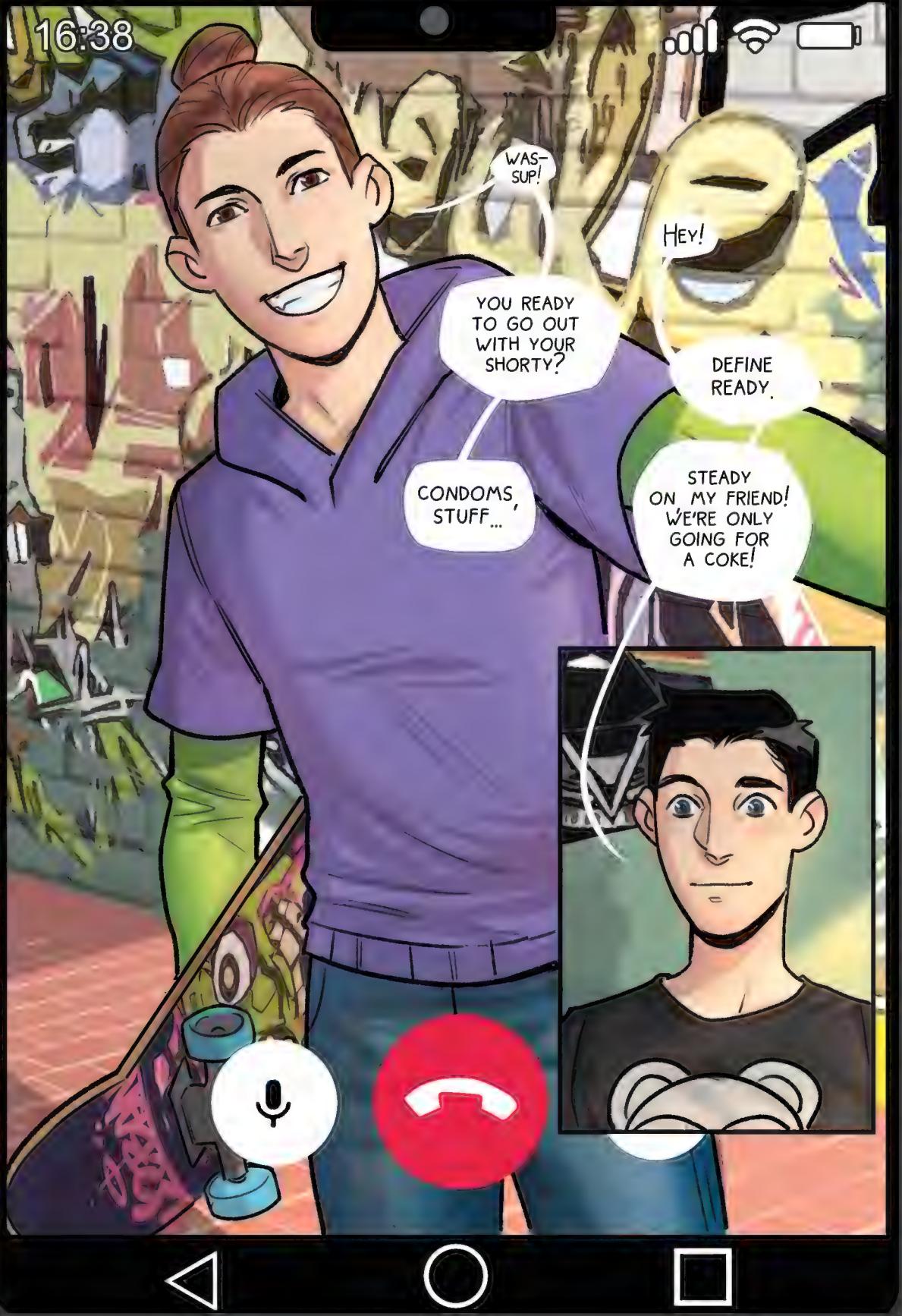
CARMEN GUASCO, MARTA MACOLINO, ALESSIA DE SIO

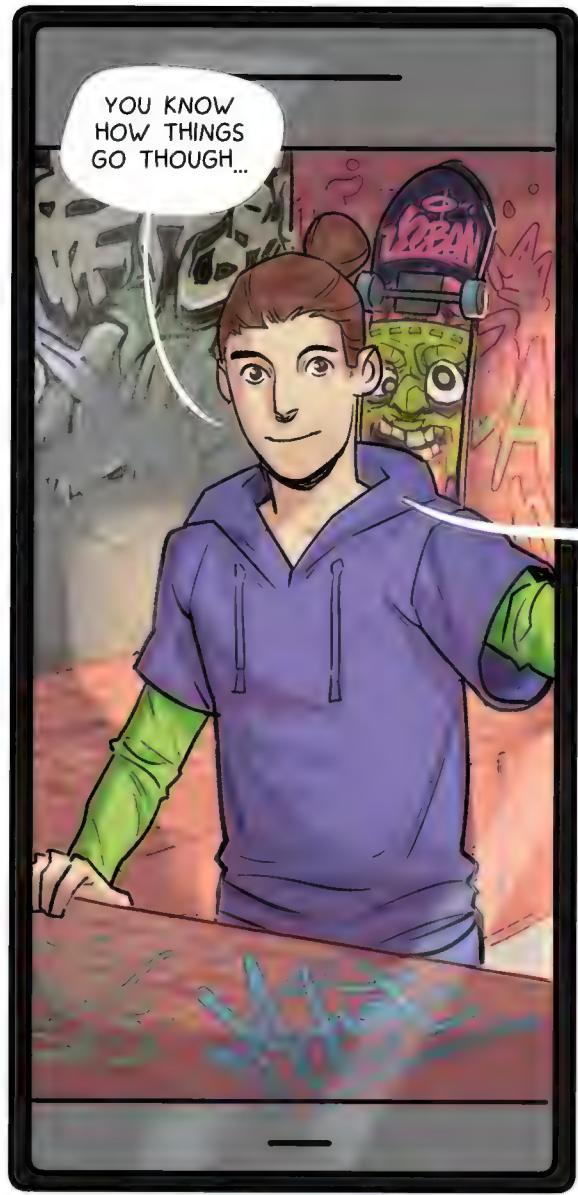




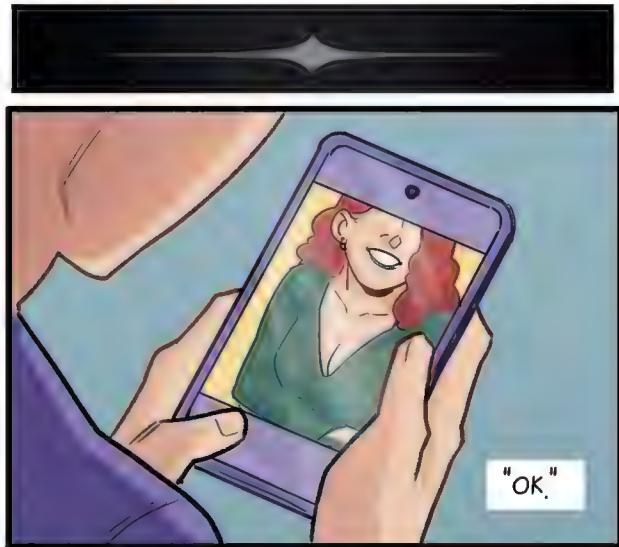


16:38



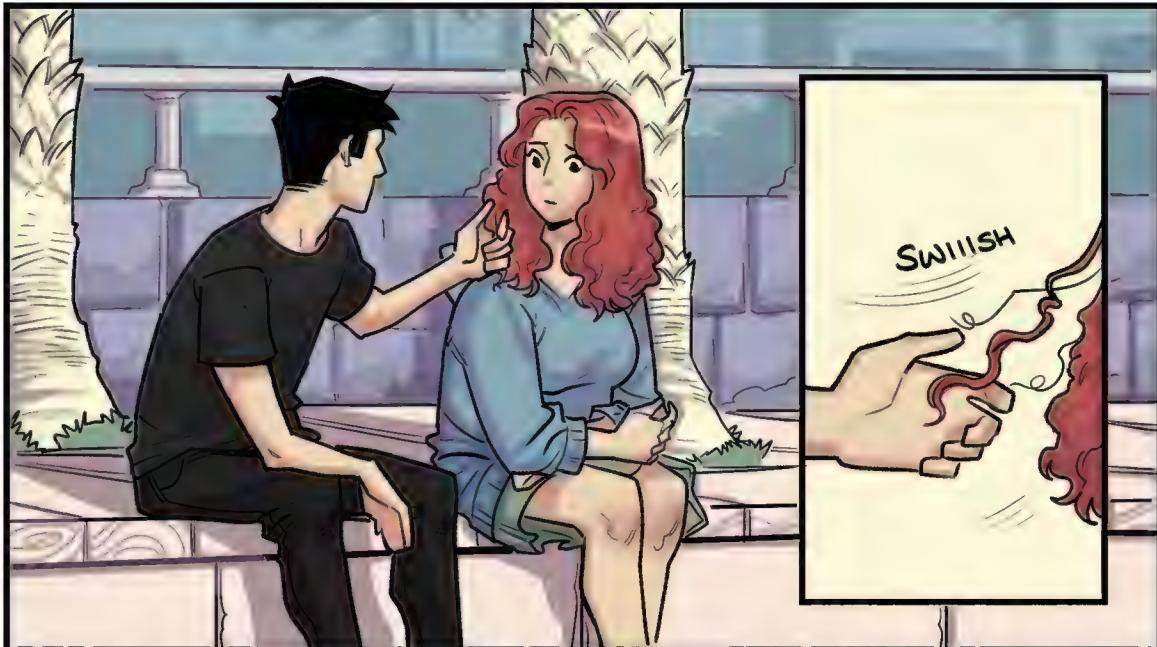
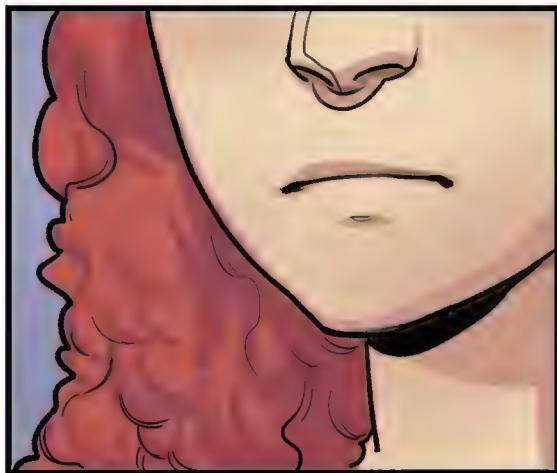








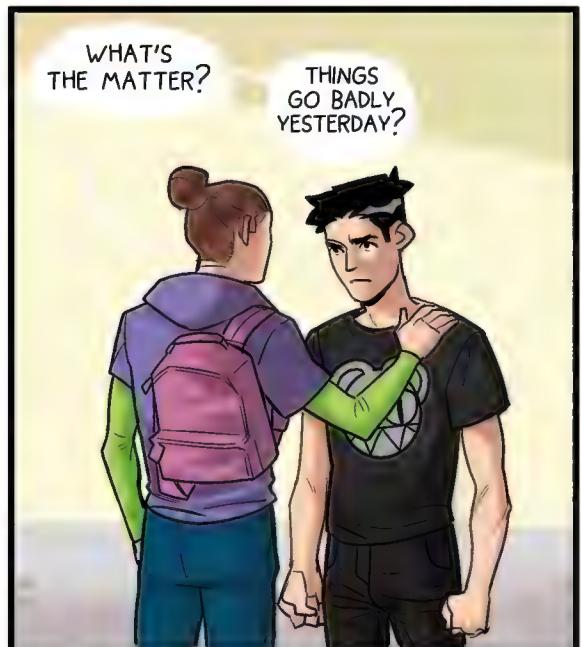




















## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Eleonora Antonioni:** I would like to thank Chiara Arienti (and Il Castoro), Lucia Biagi, and Marta Baroni for their valuable advice. I am grateful to the MOLESTE collective for being here, for doing such great work, and for inviting me to be part of this project. *The font used in the story was designed by Eleonora Antonioni and Gabriele Munafò.*

**Anna Cercignano:** My thanks go to Chiara and Giusy, who enabled us to give life to a tool that will help parents to start afresh, teachers to be prepared, and young people to be more aware. And I am also thankful for everyone in MOLESTE, who extended an unexpectedly warm welcome to me within this project.

**Davide Costa:** Thank you, Eli. Without your illustrations and your vision, this story would never have made it onto paper. And thank you to all my friends: you make me less toxic, one step at a time.

**Alessia De Sio:** To the frightened girl in the mirror: keep looking straight ahead.

**Caterina Ferrante:** Thanks for patience (other people's), coffee, and everyone who brings it to me.

**Carmen Guasco:** I thank you, because you listened to me.

**Vega Guerrieri:** I would like to thank Valerio for always being there for me, and Francesca, Cate, and Margo, who believed in me more than I did and helped me get over my usual wall of misgivings.

**Laura Guglielmo:** As usual, my thanks go to Ariel, who puts up with my storyboards via Telegram, and most of all to Greta Xella for her sensitivity and valuable creative advice.

**Marta Macolino:** Huge thanks from the bottom of my heart to Carmen Guasco and Alessia De Sio, without whom this project would never have come into being. And big hugs to everyone in MOLESTE for building a support network that rocks. You are living proof that we are far stronger when we are together.

**Maurizia Rubino:** I would like to dedicate this, with heartfelt thanks, to all the wonderful women in my family.

**Francesca Torre:** To David, to Martina. In short, to my family.

**All the authors also wish to extend their thanks to Fra and Margo, who put their time and energy into coordinating this group.**

Francesca and Margherita wish to thank Grazia La Padula for the incredibly beautiful book cover design; Sara Fabbri (you know why!); and Francesca Ciregia, Claudia Iannicello, Susanna Raule, Sara Pichelli, Sonia Alois, Serena Angelelli, Ester Cardella, Gilda Fabiano, and Deborah Tommasini for their constant support and encouragement.

Last but not least, our thanks go to the publishers, in particular Giusy and Chiara, for their valuable work; to Jennifer Guerra for her lovely contribution; and to all the artists who contributed their talents and stories to this anthology.

# MOLESTE

MOLESTE officially came into being on October 27, 2020, the day the collective first published its manifesto—signed by more than fifty artists—on its website and on social media. That day was the outcome of a gestation period that had begun in the summer, when news reached us from America that certain well-known authors had been accused of grooming and harassing their female colleagues.

The shock waves that news sent through Italy were then reflected in an article by Francesca Torre, which sketched an outline of the Italian situation based on a number of testimonies (anonymized to protect their sources). It quickly became clear that we needed to create a virtual space in which everyone interested in these issues could engage with them. Soon afterward, a

shared feeling emerged that this needed to be a long-term project that was connected with the need to talk about gender equality, including within professional and educational comics circles.

From its outset, the collective's objectives were to listen to anyone who has experienced sexual or homophobic harassment, to create a support network in collaboration with domestic violence resource centers, to raise public awareness of harassment and related issues, and to analyze and break down gender and identity stereotypes within the world of comics.

In March 2021, MOLESTE took part in its first public art installation with the exhibition *LE Articolo AutoDeterminativo*, produced by CHEAP Festival in Bologna. The exhibition consisted of eleven posters—prominently displayed along two highly frequented streets—by artists Susanna Mariani, La Tram, Deborah Tommasini, Sonia Alois, Elisa2B, Francesca Ciregia, Grazia La Padula, Helena Masellis, Caterina Ferrante, Claudia Ianniciello, and Ariel Vittori, which tell stories of female and LGBTQI+ self-determination, depicting several key milestones on a journey that is as yet unfinished.

The collective's coordination team is made up of **Sonia Alois**, **Serena Angelelli**, **Ester Cardella**, **Francesca Ciregia**, **Sara Fabbri**, **Gilda Fabiano**, **Caterina Ferrante**, **Carmen Guasco**, **Vega Guerrieri**, **Claudia Ianniciello**, **Grazia La Padula**, **Sara Pichelli**, **Susanna Raule**, **Deborah Tommasini**, **Francesca Torre**, **Elisa2B**, and **La Tram**.

If you are part of an organization that is interested in collaborating with the collective, please write to us at: [info@moleste.org](mailto:info@moleste.org)

## **SOME USEFUL RESOURCES**

**If you have experienced harassment or feel that you need help, contact:**

**National Domestic Violence Hotline**  
800-799-SAFE (7233)  
[www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

**National Sexual Assault Hotline**  
800-656-HOPE (4673)  
[www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)

**Teen Dating Abuse Helpline**  
1-866-331-9474  
[www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

MOLESTE actively collaborates with a number of antiviolence centers. A full, up-to-date list of our partner organizations can be found on our Italian website at: [www.moleste.org](http://www.moleste.org)



WINNER OF THE BOSCARATO AWARD FOR BEST YA GRAPHIC NOVEL!



"NO ONE CAN DO IT FOR YOU, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALONE."

Big names in Italian comics gather in a unique and powerful anthology to say they've had enough of gender-based violence. Ellie, Sabrina, Rose, Laura, Liz, Camilla. Their stories touch us deeply because they happen to us too—and to our sisters, friends, and neighbors.

Sometimes we don't even realize it, we minimize it, we don't have the tools to understand, react, talk about it out loud. And that's exactly why this book was born: to break the silence and fill it with our stories and our words, to ensure that situations like these never happen again.

Gender-based violence takes many forms, from subtle manipulation to outright physical abuse, and it knows no boundaries. *Loud: Stories to Make Your Voice Heard* is a powerful anthology curated by a feminist collective of Italian comics creators working in solidarity to unite, support, and empower others in the fight against toxic masculinity, both in the comics industry and beyond.

